

THE GATEWAY

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Hundreds protest Parliamentary prorogation

Events across Canada organized through Facebook group created by U of A student Christopher White

LAURIE CALLSEN
News Editor, Intercomp

"All we are saying / is get back to work," sang the crowd of 200 protesters to the tune of John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance" at a rally protesting Prime Minister Harper's decision to prorogue Parliament until March.

The Edmonton protest was one of 60 nationally and internationally. Thousands of Canadians went out into the cold to speak out against Harper's choice to close Parliament's doors.

While Harper maintains that Parliament has been prorogued to deal with the upcoming budget, most believe he wanted to stop the investigation into the Afghan detainee scandal.

"I used to be with the military police. The fact that we're arresting people who could be innocent and then have to turn them over to Afghan authorities to be tortured — that would give me nightmares," Gerald Schiller said, stating why he came to the rally.

"The fact that [Parliament] has been prorogued and the discussion of [the detainee issue is] a totally worthless idea [to the government], and I thought, 'that's wrong.'"

Lauren Wheeler, a University of Alberta student, hopes that the rally will help some Canadians overcome political apathy.

"Even if three more people decide after hearing about the protest today, after hearing the speeches here, that they disagree where they weren't sure before, then it's done its job."

She also said that she hopes opposition parties will work together, and act on the desires of Canadians.

"If [opposition parties] want to get the votes, they have to react to what



DAN MCKECHNIE

GATHERING VOICES Citizens from all walks of life gathered in Old Strathcona to express their democratic dissatisfaction.

Canadians want. Based on the turnout today and the turnout in other places, they don't agree with what our prime minister is doing."

Both Schiller and Wheeler found out about the rally through University of Alberta student Christopher White's Facebook group "Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament." White started the group in December after Harper's decision to stop Parliament until the spring. Since then, the group has grown to over 214,000 people worldwide.

"This is far beyond what I thought of that morning when I made the Facebook group," White said during a speech at the rally.

Looking out over the crowd at the rally, MP Linda Duncan for Edmonton-Strathcona marvelled at the non-partisan community at Gazebo Park.

"Absolutely phenomenal, totally grassroots show of non-partisans," she said. "Everybody's here because they are a proud Canadian that believes in democracy."

Duncan also said that the New

Democrats are planning to create legislation that would "hold the prime minister accountable for how he prorogues."

This is the second consecutive year Harper has prorogued Parliament.

He also halted Parliament in December of 2008 to stop a non-confidence vote.

The non-confidence vote was brought forward by a coalition of the Liberal Party and New Democrat Party, with support from the Bloc Québécois.

\$570/year fee approved by GFC

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

On Monday afternoon, the General Faculties Council approved a proposal that could see a \$285 per term mandatory fee imposed on students beginning on May 1, 2010.

The new charge, called the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Safety Fee, is in response to the University of Alberta's \$59 million operating budget deficit for the 2010/11 school year.

The GFC is the governing body in charge of all academic and student affairs. It is chaired by President Samarasekera, and includes all faculty deans, University vice presidents, and student and staff representatives.

University Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein presented the proposal to GFC, arguing that it's required to maintain quality levels and avoid hundreds of staff layoffs.

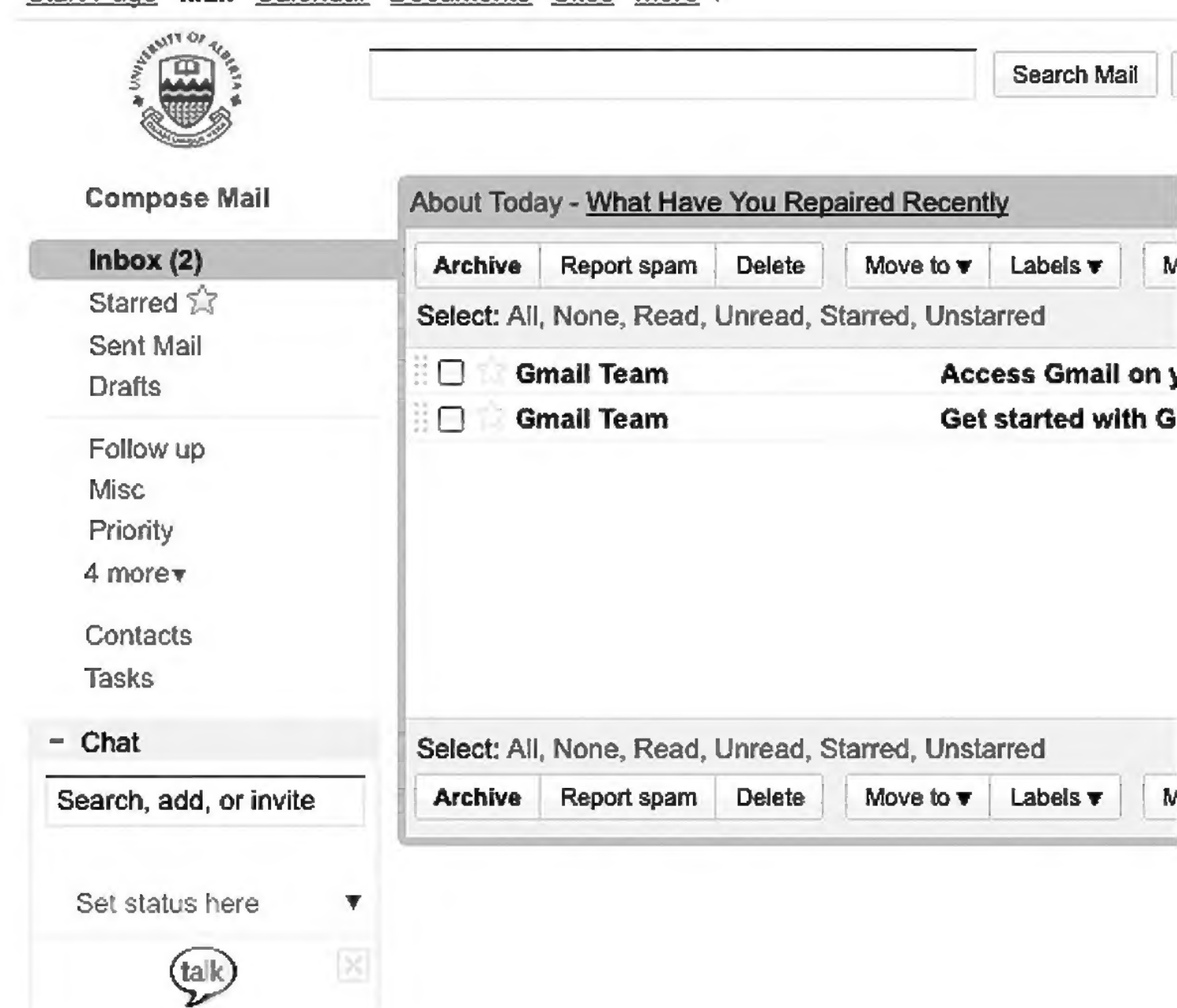
The fee would apply to all graduate students and full-time undergraduates. Part-time undergraduate students would be on the hook for half the amount.

The administration estimates revenue from the fee to be \$20 million.

The Board of Governors will have final say on the proposal in March. The fee will go through the GFC Academic Planning Committee and the Board Finance and Property Committee before the BOG considers its final approval.

"We're disappointed with the outcome of today's GFC meeting," said SU President Zach Fentiman. "It's starting to seem more and more like a bailout fee that's being imposed on students."

Start Page Mail Calendar Documents Sites more ▼



I'M FEELING LUCKY Webmail users will soon see this screen after logging in.

Google's Gmail selected to replace all WebMail services across campus

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
News Staff

University of Alberta students will start to notice some changes with their school email, as the institution has taken the first steps towards outsourcing the service to Google.

The move could save the school up to \$1 million per year.

Jonathan Schaeffer, the U of A's vice provost of information technology, considered the change after learning of email security risks through an audit. The risk stems from having many different email systems on campus.

"I found to my surprise that we

have at least 30 independent email systems. It was obvious to me that we really needed one email, and I investigated options for unifying all of the email systems on campus," he said.

But Schaeffer discovered that implementing a unified system would cost millions of dollars, which led him to investigate external outsourcing.

Schaeffer explained that the change has a long list of benefits, including everything from consolidation of on-campus I.T. infrastructure to increased mailbox size and calendaring for individual users.

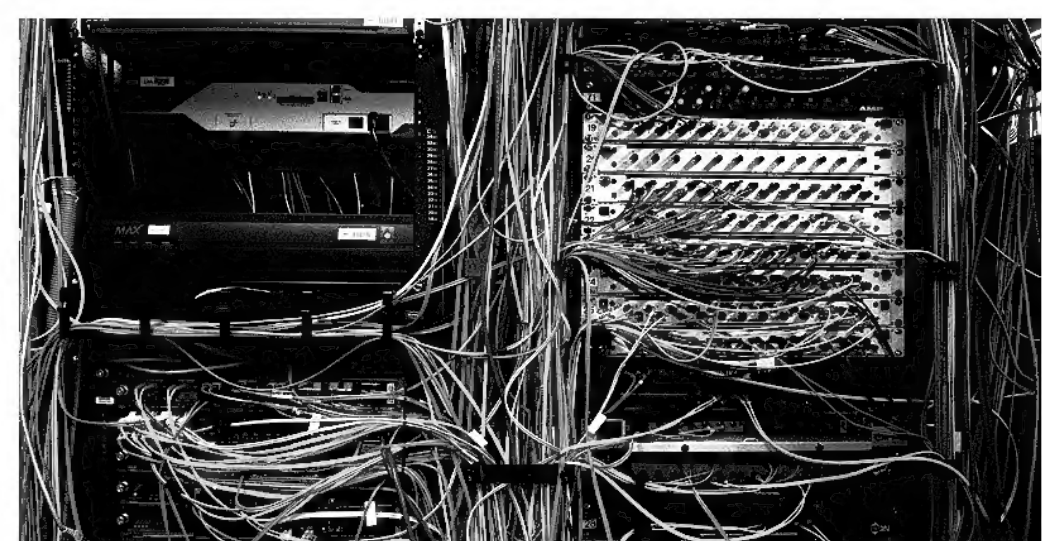
However, there is a possibility

that the servers that house Google data could be stored in the United States, but the U of A has taken steps to ensure that privacy will be maintained despite the patriot act..

"We've worked on a privacy impact assessment that raised no red flags. We've done all our due diligence there and we feel very comfortable. There are risks, but the risks are manageable," Schaeffer said.

He also believes that people need to be aware of the differences between the public Gmail and the education edition of Gmail that the University may implement.

PLEASE SEE **GMAIL** ♦ PAGE 4



Electronic warfare

Learn how to protect your online self with a plethora of tricks, tactics, and techniques from our technology guru.

FEATURE, PAGE 6



Warfare by electronics

Trace the path of how our everyday computer purchases in Canada contribute to conflicts in the Congo.

OPINION, PAGE 9

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colophon

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ECRB reconsiders sour gas well safety radius

After nearly receiving an increase, safety zones around sour gas wells will stay the same size, despite the deadly Hydrogen Sulphide harvested from them

DAN MCKECHNIE
News Writer

A recent change to Energy Resources Conservation Board policy is raising concerns about sour gas mining safety.

Shaun Fluker, a Law professor at the University of Calgary specializing in environmental policy, said that the ERCB issued a directive that would increase the radius of a site's "protective action zone." This increase in radius would expand the area which applicants for new sites would be required to address in order to drill new wells. The ERCB later retracted the directive, claiming that they were in error: a retrac-

tion Fluker believes to be a response to the radial increase.

"The policy changed because the courts found the ERCB in violation with the law; rather than conform to their own legal requirements, they simply changed them with no expert scientific or public health explanation," said Andrew Nikiforuk, a journalist who has investigated ERCB policy for nearly two decades.

Sour gas is natural gas with a hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) content of greater than four parts per million by volume. Airborne H₂S is toxic at concentrations above 10 ppm, so sour gas leaks are a serious concern for people living in proximity to gas wells.

DAN MCKECHNIE

IT'S A GAS Safety is an issue when sour gas wells are placed near communities.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Sean Steels and Philip HeadAs you may be aware, Canadians gathered last Saturday to protest the current prorogation in Ottawa.
What do you think of Stephen Harper's decision to halt Parliament?**Bowden Sych**
Science IV**Kevin Wehlag**
Science I**Anna Paquin**
Arts V**Abraham Hum**
Physiotherapy I

I'm a pretty conservative individual, so I don't necessarily disagree with his decision.

It seems unlikely that it's just for the Olympics, like he's said. It seems like there's probably another reason.

I think no work is better than wrong work. Get your facts straight, get the kinks worked out, then go back refreshed — as long as "refreshed" doesn't mean vacation.

One thing said is that this has been done in the past, so how is it different from then. In a way, it's a waste of taxpayer dollars if no one is working.

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from the archives

"School of Nursing, U of A to part"

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Dr. Andrew Stewart, president of the University of Alberta, announced this week that after the spring convocation May 14 the school of nursing would no longer be a part of the University of Alberta.

Instead, he said, both the University hospital and the University of Alberta will have separate schools of nursing. The situation of those presently nurses-in-training has not been established, but Dr. Stewart said when the situation was worked out, he was confident the nurses would find the arrangements satisfactory.

Prof. H. E. M. Penhale, present director of the nursing school, will not be affiliated with the school to be established by the hospital. She has not been offered the position of heading the University's nursing school when it is established, Dr. Stewart said.

He explained that the school of nursing is operated jointly by the hospital and the University, and since each body had a separate board of governors, difficulty in joint operation arose.

From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out thegatewayonline.ca/archives.

Edmontonians find ways to reach Haitians struck by earthquake

TRISH KOZICKA
News Writer

Ismaelie Hyppolyte has spent much of the last two weeks helplessly watching the news coverage of her earthquake-ravaged home country. The devastating images of Haiti, where her family still lives, have become a strange source of consolation for the 47-year-old University of Alberta graduate student.

"I can cry and suffer with them. I can feel what they feel," Hyppolyte explained. "If I turn off the television, I feel like I am abandoning them, and losing a part of me."

Her husband, Vasco, resides in both Edmonton and Haiti, and had just returned to the Caribbean nation on January 12, when the earthquake struck.

"He told me he saw the houses shaking, and some had collapsed. A lot of people were crying and didn't understand what was happening," Hyppolyte said. That day, instead of driving home from the airport, Vasco Hyppolyte had to walk home for six hours on a street covered by countless dead bodies.

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake has left as many as 200,000 people dead. The Haitian government called off the search-and-rescue mission on Saturday. Hours after the announcement, a man was rescued after miraculously surviving for 11 days under the rubble.

But the focus is now on delivering food, water and medical supplies to the thousands of displaced Haitians, who have lost what very little they had. And the international community has come together like never before to aid the relief efforts — the U of A being no exception.

"People want to help," said Roma Sobieski, a fourth-year science student. "By showing my passion, I think I can make others care because they will start asking questions about what I'm doing and will become more aware."

Sobieski is passionate about the power of social networking sites like Twitter, and is using it to bring Edmonton's online community together through the "#yegHaiti" movement.

She is using her sphere of influence on campus to help local industry professionals like realtor Jerry Aulenbach, draw the largest number of followers to a concert fundraiser at Original Joe's restaurant. All proceeds will go to the Royal LePage Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

Creating awareness has been the driving force behind U of A graduate Taisa Ballantyne's fundraising campaign, Project Blue Bird. Ballantyne



TRISH KOZICKA

LAY 'EM OUT Taisa Ballantyne is selling necklaces to alleviate Haitian suffering.

had brought back necklaces from overseas, and was initially planning to sell them to raise money for future humanitarian endeavours; however, when the poorest country in the Americas was hit by tragedy, Ballantyne decided to give 75 per cent of the collected donations to the Red Cross instead.

Facebook has allowed Ballantyne to sell all 50 of her necklaces within four days, raising more than \$1,500.

"What's really surprising is a lot of students are the ones giving the most money," Ballantyne said. "We want to see change."

She hopes the necklaces will remind people of Haiti when the news no longer does.

"I want them to remember that Haiti has to be something that continues to be supported."

On campus, the U of A's Canadian Red Cross Club has been the hub of support for Haiti.

"I think this relief effort is probably a good starting point," said Chongya Niu, Club President. "I hope this inspires people to do something — to join a group, learn about an issue, or start a cause themselves."

The club has managed to collect \$2,400 over three days.

"I think it's just really inspiring

because it's not just our club doing this," Niu said. "I've gotten a lot of emails from other student groups who want to know how they can help."

The Music and Political Science Departments are currently working together to plan a Benefit Concert on campus before Reading Week. But Political Science Department Chair Andy Knight added that this is just the beginning of what needs to be done to help Haiti recover, a process which he believes may take up to a decade.

With universities in Port-au-Prince now levelled and professors lost, Haiti's intellectual centre has been destroyed. Knight feels there are opportunities for the U of A to use its intellectual resources to make a difference though. He thinks one way we can help is by allowing some Haitians to come and finish their academic work at Campus Saint-Jean.

As a leading institution within Alberta, Knight also feels the University should have a long-term solution in dealing with humanitarian crises around the world.

"Our president has a motto of lifting up all the people — which is great," he said. "We just have to demonstrate that kind of leadership early when these things happen; let's not quibble about it, let's do it now."



SUPPLIED

WORLDWIDE TREMOR Ismaelie Hyppolyte (left) and Andy Knight hope the world's support for Haiti is ongoing.

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FACT:

New research has found insect colonies act as "superorganisms," where the social interactions of the individuals act dependently like cells in a body.



FACT:

Research has also found that the Gateway news section is also a "superorganism," where individual writers co-operatively form a strong entity that stays on top of happenings around campus and beyond.

GATEWAY NEWS

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Arctic sovereignty at stake as federal funding sources lessen: scientists

ANDREA LUFT
News Writer

Arctic experts are concerned that Canada is running the risk of losing some of its great land mass to more-organized countries like Russia.

They argue that the Canadian government isn't doing all it should to maximize the benefits of the Arctic, or to protect the land and its residents.

There are many issues regarding Canada's Arctic region and the work being done with it, which is primarily supported by the Polar Shelf Program. This is an area that John England, a University of Alberta professor and the only National Sciences and Engineering Research Council

of Canada chair in western Canada, focuses his work on.

"Polar Shield funding is only the beginning of the problem. The main issue is that Canada does not have a polar policy. What is invariably happening is interest in the North swings back and forth," England explained.

Not too long ago, Russia tried to claim a part of Canada's Arctic. England explained that it's the lack of government funding "freezing" work done in the Arctic that not only facilitated this move by Russia, but is also in hindering our understanding of our own backyard, which could possibly have implications on our understanding of global warming.

"What Canada's ice sheets look like

and how they formed is within my area of research. Ice sheets act like putting your fist on a mattress and depressing the earth's crust — when you take the ice sheet off, it rebounds, having pretty major effects on coast lines," he said.

This research has direct implications on the lives of coastal Arctic residents, Canadian citizens, as well as on the global understanding of the Greenhouse Effect, one of the largest, environmental issues ever.

Most other countries have a unified governmental organization that deals with Arctic matters. Most notably, the United States has a government funded and regulated body that enjoys a budget 10 times that of its Canadian counterpart, despite only having a fraction of the amount of Arctic land mass, associated with Alaska.

Last year was the International Polar Year, and the Canadian government is beginning to fund some programs, such as geo-mapping for energy and minerals, which will help Canada better understand and protect its Arctic borders. However, among scientists, the biggest concern still seems to be the lack of organization.

Without organization in polar research, organizations fund research based on different criteria, making it difficult for scientists to develop possible lines of research. This can be intimidating for many students interested in pursuing a career in Arctic research.

"It is daunting to think about being able to coordinate a successful Arctic career. With [myself] being one of the better-funded researchers in the field, still writing [emails] to the government to improve funding, the new up-and-comers must really be wondering how they are going to make ends meet," England explained.

There is likely no feasible way to increase Canada's Arctic budget to match that of the United States. However, it is important to consider the role of organization with budgeting.

"Canada may, sooner than later, need to turn to an organized central polar policy in order to see maximal productivity and maintain its potential to be a leader in arctic research," England noted.



SUPPLIED

SKY HIGH Arctic research camps are among Canada's only northern presence.

Server location could complicate privacy issues as U of A transitions to Gmail

EMAIL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The fundamental difference is that for the education edition, the University owns the data and Google is the custodian of it. And that has big implications."

"For example, on the public email, [Google's systems] read your email and use it to target advertising. That cannot happen on the education edition," he said.

Currently, U of A lawyers are working on a contract with Google, and unless that contract is satisfactory, Schaeffer noted that they won't proceed.

There are forums for students to express concerns and learn more about the potential change. And according to Students' Union Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood, most students have had a few concerns over security, but come away satisfied.

"I've generally found students to be pretty savvy and receptive to moving

forward in any direction," she said.

However, first-year Science student Zach Siewert isn't sure about outsourcing to an outside domain.

"We've worked on a privacy impact assessment that raised no red flags. We've done all our due diligence there and we feel very comfortable."

JONATHAN SCHAEFFER
VICE-PROVOST (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

"Gmail seems to work all right, but I don't know if we should switch to a third party," he said. "If anything were to go wrong with Gmail, I'd prefer for the University to have their own email server."

First-year law student John Schmidt is happy to leave WebMail behind, especially if it saves the University money.

"[Gmail] would be better because WebMail is really old, not very good to use, and it's difficult to forward to iPhones," he said.

The switch to Gmail is not only about overhauling email, but also about new technologies and keeping up with tools students are using.

"What I'm trying to do through this is hopefully make the campus more aware of different types of technologies and opportunities that are [in the] real world for our students right now, but maybe aren't part of the mindset of how we think a traditional university should run," Schaeffer said.

According to Schaeffer, there are several other universities in line to proceed with Google if the U of A does make the switch. The time of decision is unpredictable and depends on the contract.

Safe injection sites defended in court it came from planet

ANDREW BATES
CUP Western Bureau Chief

KELOWNA (CUP) — Dean Wilson is a 38-year heroin addict inflicted with Hepatitis C. Shelly Tomic is disabled by depression and arthritis in addition to her heroin addiction. They're both users of the Insite safe-injection site in Vancouver, and they've won the battle to keep Insite open.

A new decision by the B.C. Court of Appeal has found that the laws that make such sites illegal infringe on these persons' charter rights to life, liberty, and security.

Wilson and Tomic, alongside the Portland Hotel Society, which operates the site under contract with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, filed a statement of claim against the federal government in 2007 claiming that closing Insite violates the users' rights to "security of the person."

"We were incredibly ecstatic at the ruling [...] People were overjoyed," said Liz Evans, PHS executive director.

She believes Insite is extremely valuable.

"If a drug user walks in off the street, they can find belonging, dignity, and access to services that are designed with them in mind," she said.

The site addresses overdose rates as well as the rates of spread of infectious disease through dirty syringes and unclean equipment.

The group had filed action when the temporary legal exemption that had allowed Insite to operate was set to expire in 2008.

The B.C. Court of Appeal's 2-1 decision "represented the courts actually supporting the information and the research and the reality of what's actually happening every day on that site," Evans said, "as opposed to validating what ultimately is this ideological rhetoric which is coming out of the central government."

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq's office would not comment on the government's plans following the announcement.

"While the government respects the court's decision, it is disappointed with the outcome," said Christelle



JAY BLACK

OUT OF DOORS This Vancouver safe injection site was saved by a B.C. ruling.

Legault, a Health Canada spokesperson. "The government is reviewing the decision carefully."

Insite was created in 2003 after Health Canada, under the Liberal government thanks to a minister's exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, had received two exemptions from the following Conservative government by 2008.

At the time, the government had said that the extensions were meant to provide more research.

"Then, rather than using the [health-related] goals that Insite was established to actually achieve, they switched the focus of what they wanted [to] criminalize. Are we actually getting people off drugs and are we getting rid of crime?" Evans said.

According to Evans, the scientific research into the matter backs up the need for injection sites like Insite.

"The types of things that they've demonstrated is that Insite has a significant role to play in a comprehensive way of addressing addiction," she said.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal published an article in 2004 that claims that Insite lowers public drug use and discarding of drug

paraphernalia. A 2006 paper from the New England Journal of Medicine states that an average use of Insite of once a week or any contact with the on-site addictions counsellor independently increased that person's chance to get into rehab.

Health Canada compiled a report in 2008 for former health-minister Tony Clement, noting that Insite had intervened in 336 overdose events, with no deaths.

"If they were to occur in an alley or somewhere isolated, that person ultimately ends up dying," Evans noted.

The report identified some limitations of the research, including the issue of self-reporting and the difficulty of measuring injections in Vancouver's downtown east side outside of Insite.

Evans wants to drive home the message that Insite saves lives.

"Shelly Tomic and Dean Wilson [...] testified in the court document that Insite had saved their lives," she said. "There's many people that go every day [into the upstairs detox] who tell everyone who's willing to hear [that] they wouldn't be in detox without Insite."

Canadian Council on Learning faces end of five-year contract, federal funding

EMMA GODMERE
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Conservative government has decided not to renew funding for the Canadian Council on Learning, a national organization that has studied and published public reports on all levels of Canadian education since 2004.

On January 8, the CCL announced that the government's financial support — originally a five-year, \$85-million grant, which had been extended by the Conservatives for another 12 months last year — will run out on March 31.

"This will necessitate a dramatic scaling down at CCL," President and CEO Paul Cappon explained in a statement on the CCL website. "However, we are determined to fulfill our current commitments, and identify new ways to serve Canadians, albeit with more modest means."

Ninety-five per cent of the CCL's funding is based on federal support.

"I am shocked and I'm very disturbed by this cut in funding," NDP MP Niki Ashton told the University of Ottawa's CHUO-FM on January 8.

"Not only has the CCL been doing

"CCL didn't just do research. CCL provided a report card in many ways, and indicators as to how well Canada was doing."

NIKI ASHTON
NDP MP

important work in our research — and particularly educational research and learning research in our country — but it's also a program, an organization that's being cut as part of a pattern [...] a pattern that the Stephen Harper Conservatives have certainly taken on where we see an attack on research," she said.

The Millennium Foundation officially dissolved just days before the CCL announcement on January 5.

Established by the Liberal government in 2004, the independent but government-funded CCL has conducted regular research and published annual reports focusing on various knowledge-related topics, including adult literacy, aboriginal learning, and postsecondary education.

"CCL didn't just do research. CCL provided a report card in many ways,

and indicators as to how well Canada was doing," Ashton said.

"Once we lose that kind of information from an independent organization — certainly funded by government, but independent in its work — I think that's something that we should all be very concerned about and that should set alarm bells off for all of us."

Federal Human Resources and Social Development Minister Diane Finley explained in a December 2009 letter to the *Globe and Mail* that "the decision not to renew was not made lightly."

Ashton, also the postsecondary education and literacy critic in the federal NDP caucus, reiterated the importance of funding educational research.

"This is something that should concern all of us."

the vulgarians are at the gate
concerted efforts
the freshman 15

thegatewayonline.ca/blogs



gateway student journalism society

presents

GSJS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, 28 January, 2010 at 5pm in Room 3-06,
Students' Union Building**

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Introductory remarks • Approval of 2008-2009 GSJS Audit
(Allen & Associates) • Announcements • Refreshments

All members (i.e., those with five or more Gateway contributions in the 365 days prior to 28 January and who have registered for membership with a Gateway editor) are asked to attend. If you have made five or more contributions to the Gateway in the 365 days prior to 28 January and would like to become a member, please contact the Editor-in-Chief at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca. This meeting is also open to the public.

**For more information, please contact Gateway Business Manager
Asia Szkudlarek at biz@gateway.ualberta.ca
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TENDING TO TECH

Over the past decade, the Internet has woven itself into the fabric of everyday life. But while we'd all like to snuggle up with our favourite communications blanket, it's important to be smart about what you do online. The Gateway's Online Editor and resident tech expert Lucas Wagner is here with some practical advice for safe surfing.

Written by Lucas Wagner
Photographed by Pete Yee

FIRST: Choose a password that doesn't suck.

Your password, whether it's for Facebook, Twitter, or your University WebMail, is essentially a key for whatever you're logging into. A complex password is like a complex key — it's a lot harder for people to gain access to your stuff when your key has eight different teeth going every which way, and only works if you turn it at just the right angle. Conversely, a short password grabbed out of the dictionary is the digital equivalent to letting anyone with a paper clip pick open your lock.

While it may sound weird, data thieves often use "dictionary attacks" to guess someone's password. If a system doesn't block the attacker's password-guessing attempts after a few tries, the thieves can keep throwing common words at it using an automated script. The easiest way to defend against these attacks is to simply choose a good password. While

any decent password will include a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols, longer passwords are the hardest to crack. A brute-force dictionary will often only go up to eight or nine characters, but by adding extra letters or symbols to your password, you instantly reduce its chances of getting hacked. Many security experts often recommend the use of a "passphrase" — since spaces count as special characters, you can use a standard sentence as a lengthy yet easy-to-remember password.

Note that the advice here also applies for "security questions"; your online accounts are only as secure as the weakest way to access them. While your password might be uncrackable, if you've picked a predictable password reset question/answer pair like "What is your dog's name?", your account is just one Facebook profile look-up from being broken into.



SECOND: Be smart with your credentials.

Just like your bank card PIN, which rock you keep your extra house keys under, and where you hid the bodies, you should also keep your passwords a secret from the world. As long as you use your common sense while you're on the Internet, this step's easy to adhere to.

The main thing to remember here: don't send your password to anyone via email, ever. Seriously. While many people like to think that email is a secure mode of information transportation, nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, the messages you send via email are about as private as a message written on the back of a postcard. While it's usually unlikely that someone's interested in the contents of your email, anyone who is can intercept the message with relative ease.

Similarly, it's quite easy for a scammer to forge a From address in an email. Those messages you get from "Mail Admin Team" asking you to send your username and password to them for "upgrade purposes"? Fake. Always have been, always will be. Don't trust links in emails that ask for your password either — all that lock in the corner of your screen means is

that you have an encrypted connection to whoever's trying to steal it.

Don't forget about physical security either. If, for some reason, your password is complex to the point that you need to write it down somewhere, keep that piece of paper or sticky-note safe. Put it in a locked drawer, or somewhere else secured away from prying eyes.

However, being smart about how you use your username and password isn't just about not giving it out to strangers: you also have to be wary of strange computers. That computer in the hotel lobby promising free Internet may look safe enough, but could very well have a program running in the background, capturing your keystrokes. If it's like most public access computers, it could have all sorts of identity-thieving viruses on it.

Of course, if you ever believe your password's been compromised, the solution is simple: change it. Find a trusted computer, change the password in question, and don't use it again. It sounds simple, but it works. Changing your password is the easiest and most effective way to cut off any illegitimate access to your account.



THIRD: Keep up-to-date.

You probably already have some form of anti-spyware or anti-virus program installed on your computer, but it's useless without updates. Data thieves are constantly cooking up new programs to surreptitiously steal your stuff, and your virus protection app can't save you from what it doesn't know about.

The same goes for computer updates in general. All of us have ignored that blinky and bouncy notification from our computer shouting about new updates at some point, but trust me on this:

it's not a good idea. The updates sent to your computer usually include patches for security holes — often holes which have recently been exploited — and without them, your computer could be left open to attack. Some virus writers capitalize specifically on un-patched systems: they'll look at the content of the security update, see which holes have been plugged, and create a program to attack those holes in the hopes of infecting computers who haven't run updates in a while.



While there are many other things you can do to stay safe online — most of which involve getting seriously geeky — those three tips cover the essentials. Use your newfound knowledge to go forth and surf the web like a champ! And if you're yearning for more, just send your credit card number, your mother's maiden name, and your pet's medical history to me via email. You can trust me, right?

Haitian cruises shouldn't be sunk

ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISE LINES HAS BEEN UNDER some scrutiny over the past week and a half after making a decision to keep Labadee — a private beach on the coast of Haiti — on their cruise itinerary following the massive earthquake earlier this month that killed thousands.

Many have argued that it's inappropriate for tourists to tan, sip tropical smoothies, and jet-ski just 60 miles from the earthquake's epicentre, while others have emphasized that economically, tourism is an industry that sustains a large number of Haitian workers and families.

Despite the criticism, Royal Caribbean's decision to continue to dock at Labadee may be a lot more helpful than harmful to the devastated country. The company employs about 200 Haitians to maintain the beach and entertain guests during their stay, and another group of Haitians benefit financially from selling their handmade crafts and braiding hair on the beach. If the cruise line were to pull out of Labadee for any period of time, all of these people would essentially be without any income. Anything to take away from the Haitian economy at this point, even on the small scale, is probably not beneficial.

And it's not just on the small scale — besides providing the country with about 4,000 tourists bearing cash, Royal Caribbean has also stepped up their efforts and have committed to donating \$1 million to relief efforts, have been bringing fresh water and food on each visit, as well as giving 100 per cent of the proceeds from every stop at Labadee to those in need.

As is the case with every cruise, passengers can choose whether or not to leave the ship at any given port-of-call. Those Royal Caribbean passengers who feel uncomfortable eating and drinking on Labadee beach can freely stay on the boat. The thing no one is considering is that even when they booked their trip, they probably didn't have a problem with the idea of zip-lining though Haiti before the quake, even though the country was still home to rampant poverty, starvation, and sickness.

Don't get me wrong — I share the uneasy feelings of some of the critics of Royal Caribbean. It's difficult to understand how someone could even enjoy a vacation to Haiti knowing that so many people have died nearby and countless others are suffering immensely. However, it seems unfair to cast extra blame on those tourists just because they're closer to the disaster. As I sit typing this article in Canada, the suffering continues the same in Haiti as it would were I on that cruise. If I send a cheque for \$100 to relief efforts, is it really that different from someone who spends \$100 on crafts and drinks while visiting Labadee? Or for that matter, should someone sunning themselves in Spain right now be under the same scrutiny?

In truth, I actually have been on that cruise before. In August of 2007, far before the earthquake, I was a passenger on Royal Caribbean's Independence of the Seas on the same cruise route that includes Haiti as a port-of-call. During that month, an eight-lane interstate bridge in Minneapolis collapsed and injured nearly 70 people, killing nine. A passenger train in the Congo crashed, killing 100. Floods in North Korea were killing hundreds, and an earthquake in Peru killed almost 350 people. I still went on my vacation. The earth kept spinning.

My point is not that we should be apathetic when extreme tragedy strikes another part of the world, but rather that the lives of the non-afflicted can't stop, and shouldn't stop because of it. Awareness is important, as is compassion. While my donation will be sent from Alberta, it is of no more or less value than someone who supports the relief efforts by visiting Haiti, even under the guise of relaxation.

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I have seen the future

SU elections:
Candidates ready speeches
Gateway readies bile

DAVID JOHNSTON
A mysterious boy in coloured tights



LANCE MUDRYK

letters TO THE eds

A proroguish knave

After reading the article "Political Science professors condemn prorogation, call for electoral reform" (January 21) I find myself questioning the motives of the 132 professors behind this movement. Jean Chrétien prorogued Parliament multiple times and received staggeringly large majority governments in the '90s while receiving far less than 50 per cent of the vote. I doubt these people complained as loudly then as they are doing now. I am not in favour of the current prorogation, but condemnation works both ways, and I smell partisan interests behind the motives of these professors.

MATTHEW AQUILETTI
Engineering IV

from THE web

... And out flew all the evils of the world

RE: "Opening Pandora's Box of escapism," (January 21)

Another baseless oversimplification of reality, as I have seen so many times in the news. Quite frankly, I'm

wondering whether most of you lot, and by that I mean those of you who deign to be the reporters of the news, the public "conscience", are getting together and swapping notes. Yes, you may have a few unique points in your article, but this incessant whining over *Avatar* fans becoming depressed and going back for more is starting to wear a little thin.

Like all the other journalists (or in your case, wannabe journalists), you just love to find every little bit of salacious comment made anywhere in the forums you so obviously seem to visit, yet it's strikingly obvious that you hardly ever touch any of the other posts made therein. If and when you do — highly unlikely that is — you may just find a very interesting and varied group of people who have all been inspired by this film to actually talk about doing something for this planet.

It might not have occurred to you, considering you're still only a boy and hardly begun to live yet, that many of these people on these forums are quite a bit older than you or your friends are. They have lived lives you can't even begin to fathom and yet you sit here and pass judgment on their collective sanity? On what basis do you do this?

Hopefully not on your grand experience of life, because from where I'm sitting, all I see is some eager college student who wants to make a name for himself and maybe get a cadetship in a news bureau

somewhere. Good on you if you do, but don't pontificate on something you really know very little about.

It's up to you, and all the other students, and everyone else in your communities to get up off your collective backsides and do something constructive for once, instead of moaning about everything and thinking that you can't change things.

CARL
Via Internet

How'd we get mixed up in this? Right, the Internet

RE: "Opening Pandora's Box of escapism," (January 21)

Carl, I've got to say that I'm startled by your comments. I'm assuming you're from a later generation than the writer in question. To imply that the youth are "not getting off their backsides" and doing something about the environment is completely outrageous. It was your generation (and your predecessors) that got us in this situation in the first place, and now it is our generation, the generation of "wannabe" journalists that are forced to pick up the pieces and "save the world." And you're surprised that we get apathetic from time to time?

No, us students, instead of dwelling on the philosophical values of a movie (again, I repeat, it's a frickin' movie), are more involved in issues of

the environment more than any generation in the past. We are involved in non-profit organizations and activism more than any generation in the past, and we are, albeit slowly, changing the face of western society. For someone who does not appreciate the "baseless oversimplification of a reality," you really oversimplify this article, and you make offensive judgments about people from my generation, us "students" that are forced to pick up the pieces.

ANNE
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed if we have minimal actual letters. And trust us, we have about 2,000 more rants on *Avatar* waiting in the wings, and you really don't want us to have to go to that well again next week.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Nuclear power might just be a new, clear option for us



DAVID KACZAN

The province is open for nuclear business. That was the announcement made last month by the Alberta government following a lengthy period of deliberation. Open, perhaps, but on limited terms — no public money would be spent on nuclear power, and each proposal would be evaluated on a case by case basis, according to Energy Minister Mel Knight. The government claimed nuclear power has slim majority support amongst the public, yet distaste from a variety of interest groups was on clear display during the fall. Predictably, environmental concerns abounded.

But given two recent reports on Canada's energy and carbon predicament, exactly which side of the debate represents environmental prudence is not so clear. Nuclear power, the bogeyman of energy debates of years gone by, is back in vogue, but now its opponents seem even more environmentally conscious than ever.

Early last year, the Alberta government commissioned an independent study on the option of nuclear power in the province. On such an explosive topic, the report's wording was

delicate, but the subtext clear — we need more energy (a lot more), and given its limitations, coal probably isn't a responsible way to get it. Conveniently, Ontario energy company Bruce Power has a plan to build up to four reactors in Peace River, Alberta. With the government's new qualified endorsement, Bruce Power is no doubt doing the sums.

If current technologies fail to deliver the massive necessary cuts to emissions, then the nuclear option can't be dismissed. If the environmental movement insists on doing so, it may lose the greater climate change battle

Not long after the government report was released, Green groups — Pembina Institute, and the David Suzuki Foundation — jointly published their own take on Canada's carbon and energy future. The report steered clear of picking sides in the nuclear debate, but was adamant on the need for a carbon tax or trading scheme. Despite the sombre topic, the report was surprisingly upbeat. It argued that a concerted effort to reduce emissions, encouraged by a sizeable tax, would not send Western Canada down the economic drainpipe.

But even good news on a carbon tax received the baton treatment from Premier Ed Stelmach who, along with Federal Environment Minister

Jim Prentice, dismissed the findings of the study. In their defence, it is indeed difficult to foresee both the climatic and economic future with even the most sophisticated models, but it probably beats flipping a coin. And the effect so far from our giant experiment with the atmosphere would suggest that continuing with more of the same is probably not a winning strategy.

So, what's that got to do with the nuclear debate and the folks at Peace River? Given just how difficult emissions reductions have been so far, technically and politically, a solution that can maintain our high-wattage lifestyle looks good to governments. If Alberta is going to chip in to the global effort, unfairly or otherwise, Peace River might find itself carrying the burden.

Given this, the residents of the town have been keen to have their voices heard. In the lead-up to the government's decision, Peace River invited two heavyweights of opinion to debate the merits of nuclear power at a local inn. Anti-nuclear veteran Dr. Helen Caldicott,

an Australian physician, urged protest on safety grounds, whilst Dr. Duane Bratt, a policy expert from Mount Royal University, claimed it was a formidable weapon against climate change and a boost to the provincial economy. Both arguments are compelling. Nuclear does provide bucket loads of relatively carbon-free energy, but would you want a plant near you?

Efficiency and renewables are of course the preferred options. But the environmental movement is faced with a conundrum. If these technologies fail to deliver the necessary massive cuts to emissions, then the nuclear option can't be dismissed. If the environmental movement insists on doing so, it may lose the greater climate change battle.

So the nuclear question is: is it worth accepting if it can provide the carbon relief we need? Peace River residents probably don't think so, but governments are increasingly tempted. Nuclear power is certainly not untested — for instance, the University of Alberta has already blazed a trail of sorts. We have a small reactor in the basement of the Dentistry and Pharmacy building, which has been quietly chugging away in the name of science for over 30 years.

The smell of hydrocarbons has long been the smell of progress here in Alberta, but if the world moves on from its coal and oil addiction it will take the province kicking and screaming with it. Nuclear may seem to be an unpalatable option, but pragmatic environmentalists will accept that it needs to be at least considered.

Keep the faith on the inside and in the end, the religion will sort itself out



DAVID JOHNSTON

I was leaving my house the other afternoon when I was accosted by a trio of missionaries. Now, the way that sentence is phrased, it sounds like they were lying in wait behind a snowbank, clutching holy-water-filled super soakers, muttering to themselves "He'll be out ... just a little longer ..." In truth, they might just have been doing that, and I wouldn't blame them — my roommates and I are very bad at answering the door. At any given time, Roommate Mike, Roommate

Fayyad, and I are very likely to be either unconscious, out of the house, or else involved in something much too important to answer the door (i.e. *Call of Duty 4*). So I don't blame these folks for switching their pulpit from doorstep to sidewalk in my case.

These three young women, who were from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, were very outgoing and friendly and asked for both a moment of my time and the status of my religious beliefs. I was very much hoping that this makes the first time "demi-atheist" has been given as an answer, but they didn't bat an eyelash at the answer, which led me to believe they'd been around the block a time or two already — possibly literally — while waiting for me to emerge. At any rate, we shared a charming five-minute conversation and then went on our ways.

But as I headed out to campus, the question of religion continued to occupy my thoughts. By which I mean it continued to occupy the path in front of me. For I couldn't escape the enormous advertising campaign for the upcoming *Does God Exist II* debate, a sequel to last year's wildly popular *Does God Exist I: The Phantom Menace*. The debate promises to pit a theist versus an atheist, hopefully in an *American Gladiators*-esque competition involving big foam mallets and pits of lava and the entirely on-topic cries of "Where's your Messiah now?" which would be awesome. They haven't responded to my many letters of suggestion, unfortunately.

I'm not using this space to wax philosophical on my religious practices, which is good, largely because I don't really have any. Still, what I do believe is that using a public forum in any way to try

and discuss religious activities seems counterproductive. Sure, there are conversions, and there's a lot to be said about the subject, but faith has always seemed intensely personal. Either you have it or you don't, and there's very little that can convince you otherwise. Or you have some, and again, it's an intensely personal distinction and set of beliefs. I made up my mind when I was a young boy about what I believed in, even if I didn't fully realize it at the time, and I think a lot of people do that — they figure stuff out on their own without the need for other, louder voices to persuade them as to what they should think about.

I'm unusually hard to hold on to where religion is concerned, so I will not joining the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, probably because my level of time commitment, aversion to scripture,

sexuality, short attention span, and career aspirations might all end up being deal breakers in one form or another. And perhaps at the debate this year, the existence of God will be scientifically proven, and won't I look foolish then. The fact remains, however that organized religion has always just felt weird to me, because spirituality is so private and so intimate a thing for each person that it seems impossible to ever come together with a group of people at the same place and time, believing the identical things you do. Not to condemn anyone for whom it works — more power to you. But sidewalk preaching or well-publicized debates just simply seem like the wrong venues for promoting atheism or theism.

The body is a temple, right? Can't we just worship on the inside? My temple, for instance, is well-stocked with *Call of Duty 4*, and that's how it'll probably stay.

VIDEO GAME
ANTIQUITIES:
THE GUNBLADE



GATEWAY
Opinion

BOTH BARRELS BLAZING SINCE 1910

Look, we're not going to have to work very hard to defend the concept of Squall Leonhart's weapon of choice from Final Fantasy VIII. It's a gun. And it's a blade. A gunblade. There is no way this is not automatically awesome.

But more to the point, the gunblade is an ideal representation of the attitude modern society has towards both warfare — often lumping together any antagonistic force into one impossibly pre-packaged structure — and time and life as a whole, regularly missing out on the logistics and issues regarding any such commitment as we have no time to take each item individually, instead needing a portmanteau at every turn. Truly, the gunblade is a macrocosm of the cosmos.

If you rolled your eyes at our ramblings, you qualify for Gateway Opinion. Come on up to a meeting in SUB 3-04 on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. Bring your riflecutlass.

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ROSS VINCENT

Seems in recent weeks, “prorogue” has become quite a heated topic of discussion for such a funny word. Stephen Harper’s recent move has been met not only with accusations of undemocratic behaviour, but also with calls for prorogation to be banned, and even for a reformation of Canada’s electoral process. Certainly something akin to proportional representation would be a much-welcomed change to the misrepresented electorate, but believe me — it’s not gonna happen. Under no circumstances will our elected officials want to change the system that got them into power in the first place. Aside from the inevitable complications and cost of reforming our electoral system, the real Catch-22 of all this is that the people who would be required to carry out these reforms are the same people who would naturally be most resistant to them: our elected officials. Canada’s major parties are run by seasoned political operators who are intimately familiar with our current system and know how to work it to their best advantage. What incentive is there for them to change a system that demonstrably works for them to one that is unfamiliar and risks losing seats to a lot of fringe parties? After all, there’s no sense in reforming something when

you have the power to gerrymander it to your liking. To the government, instituting proportional representation would be shooting themselves in the foot. Rarely does the majority party in the House of Commons also have a majority of the popular vote, so their position of dominance under a PR system would be a mere fleeting notion.

Once Parliament is back in session, most of us will forget what “prorogue” even means (assuming we know now).

Likewise, campaign finance would inevitably take a crushing hit. Instead of diverting money from sure-thing or lost-cause ridings into hotly contested marginal constituencies, political parties will be forced to spread their resources across the entire country. While the idea of candidates scrounging for every citizen’s vote sounds great to us, it would wreak havoc with party coffers, which is where the buck really stops. Prorogation is also here to stay. Sure, opposition leaders like Jack Layton are making political capital by condemning the practice as undemocratic, but neither he nor anyone else would dare ban it were they in charge. Why? Because they might feel the need to suspend parliament for a few weeks themselves at some point in the future.

Though banning prorogation would be a popular move regardless of the party responsible, any politician worth their salt knows that popularity today doesn’t mean popularity tomorrow. If the primary goal of any political party is to seize and stay in power for as long as possible — and let’s face it, that’s the sole reason why most of them exist — then prorogation is a major weapon in their arsenal. Some may argue that with overwhelming public support, our elected officials would have no choice but to make these reforms. Possibly, but is it realistic to expect so great a commitment from people when voter turnout is so low and the attention span for all things political is correspondingly finite? Once Parliament is back in session, most of us will forget what “prorogue” even means (assuming we know now). Some may also argue that not all parties are resistant to reform, but rather, advocate it. The Green Party, for example, support PR, but considering that their share of the popular vote floated just around six per cent last election, we can’t consider their motives to be entirely altruistic. If they could win seats under our current system, they would; since they can’t, they push for PR. Self-interest shines through once again. There’s no question that Canada’s electoral process is antiquated and could use some reform, but the realities of our political climate make it unlikely at best. Luckily the Olympics are about to start. That ought to make us forget about this pesky “reform” business.

Electronics will keep warfare from defusing



GREG QUEYRANNE

Over the last decade, the rise of the global electronics industry has sharply increased our ability to study, learn, and share. But half a world away, it has also inadvertently been fuelling a massive war in the Congo, which has killed an estimated 6 million people — more than any other conflict since World War II. Since so many of us in Canada own high-tech products already, we have, without knowing it, been putting money into the pockets of some of the world’s most vicious killers and rapists. Through long and murky international supply chains, minerals that are controlled by brutal rebels and militias in the Congo are finding their way into our gadgets like cell phones, laptops, iPods, and BlackBerrys. These “conflict minerals,” such as tin, tantalum, and tungsten travel eastward from central Africa to be smelted into metals in Asia, and then processed into circuit boards and capacitors used by the electronics industry. With such high demand for these metals for the global economy, armed groups are earning tens of millions of dollars a year from the illicit minerals trade, which they use to buy guns, attack villages, and turn children into soldiers. And the core tactic in their war strategy to shock and flush communities out of mineral-rich areas is the regular use of mass-scale rape. In 2009 alone, the drive to get a bigger slice of

“As major purchasers of electronics, we have a responsibility to join this effort and urge electronics companies to begin telling us whether the metals in their products are helping militias terrorize civilians or wipe out communities on the other side of the planet.”

the minerals pie has led to the rape of an estimated 7,000 women and girls. But before adding this to our growing list of global problems or African tragedies, it is important to know that solutions are being developed to help end this horrible and direct connection between us as consumers and citizens on this side of the planet, and those in the Congo’s war zones. As major purchasers of these electronics, we have a responsibility to join this effort and urge electronics companies to begin telling us whether the metals in their products are helping militias terrorize civilians or wipe out communities on the other side of the planet. As citizens, we need to encourage our Members of Parliament to pass legislation that would tackle this problem. Electronics companies often indicate that it is unclear from which countries the metals in their products come from, since many of the intermediary smelting facilities mix minerals coming in from different countries. Independent verification mechanisms should be put in place to find out which facilities are processing conflict minerals from the Congo. Concerned with this issue, leading Republicans and Democrats introduced two bills in the Senate and the House in 2009 that would force American companies to disclose the origin of some of the metals in their products in order to determine if

the minerals come from legitimate mines or those controlled by armed groups. The House version would oblige smelters to undergo regular third-party audits — so electronic companies can choose whether or not to source metals from facilities that knowingly process conflict minerals — and would require electronic companies in the U.S. to only source from audited facilities. From this, consumers could know which electronics have been certified ‘conflict-free,’ and which companies refuse to ensure that they are not contributing to war. With atrocities — not limited to rape — having sharply risen in the Congo in recent months, Canada urgently needs similar yet tougher legislation. Fortunately, there is already some support in Ottawa. Made up of over 50 MPs and senators from all four of Canada’s major political parties, Parliament’s Genocide Prevention Group called in September for our politicians to “formulate and pass legislation for ‘rape-free phones’ and other rape-free products,” modelled on the legislation being proposed in the U.S. Until something is done to help end this conflict that continues to end a staggering 1,500 lives daily — a 9/11 every two days — then the 11-year war in the Congo will likely drag on, with our demand for electronics playing a vital role in fuelling the fire.



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Rough script adds challenge for capable Grant Mac chorus

theatrereview

A Connecticut Yankee

Directed by Cathy Derkach

Starring an ensemble cast of Grant MacEwan Theatre Arts students

Runs until January 30 at 7:30 p.m.

John L. Haar Theatre (10045-155 St.)

\$10-15 at tixonthesquare.ca

BRUCE CINNAMON

Arts & Entertainment Staff

There's a reason you've never heard of *A Connecticut Yankee*. Adapted in 1927 from an 1889 Mark Twain novel, the play follows the misadventures of a naval officer who "time travels" to King Arthur's court, wherein everyone is the same but different, and anachronistic comedy ensues before he realizes that it was all a dream. If the story sounds kitschy and uninspired, that's because it is.

With music and lyrics composed by musical duo Richard Rodgers (the predecessor of *Sound of Music* duo Rodgers and Hammerstein) and Lorenz Hart, one would hope that the plot could be resuscitated, but this is sadly not the case. Its songs are generally shallow and forgettable, with campy self-referential rhyming, overlong musical interludes, and seemingly endless reprises.

Despite the tired and dated source material, the cast of Grant MacEwan's Theatre Arts program gives an exceptional performance. The sheer energy of the ensemble rouses the skeptical audience from mild chuckles and polite applause to engaged observation. The enthusiasm of the supporting cast spreads throughout the room, as if in a shared acknowledgement of the poor quality of the show, but a determination to have as much fun performing it as possible.

The same cannot be said for the main cast members, who at times seem exhausted and



SUPPLIED: JACKIE FOWLER

uninvolved in their own stories. Timothy Cooper, playing lead Lt. Martin Barrett, sings beautifully, though seems bored with his character. Ashley Weir, in the comic role of villainess Fay Merrill/Morgan Le Fay, plays up the melodrama of her role to the point of being an obvious caricature, lacking any kind of idiosyncrasy despite her part's potential for quirkiness. Although both Cooper and Weir deliver adequate performances, it is only Bracken Burns, playing Cooper's main love interest Alice Cortleigh/Sandy, who earns and enjoys the spotlight. Burns fluctuates between coy, angry, and sultry with magnificent singing and funny physicalization.

The supporting cast boasts Chelsea Preston and Geran Koornhof as love-struck couple Evelyn and Sir Galahad. Their duets — part dance off,

part slapstick, and part metaphorical sex scene — are hilarious and welcome in the intervals that the audience waits for the chorus to reappear. Grace Fitzpatrick and Aaron Tremblay play Lady Angela and Merlin with a wonderfully weird and kinky vibe, stealing the scenes with their wacky chemistry.

Set in two very different time periods, the stage changes several times — from a well-appointed ballroom, wherein Uncle Sam's giant finger seems to follow one even as he moves throughout the audience, to a medieval castle, to a glittering gold dungeon — but it's always impressively dressed thanks to designer Anne Gurney. Unfortunately, the beautiful set requires intrusive changes that break the flow of the story and disrupt the audience's already thin suspension of disbelief.

Due to the strength of the chorus, the indisputable triumph of this show is in the talent of its dancers. Masterful choreography by Cindy Kerr and some truly awe-inspiring tap dance numbers distract from the forgettable music and lyrics. The five-minute piece dedicated solely to "lunchtime" is particularly enjoyable, as the entire cast performs amazing feats of footwork.

Ultimately, *A Connecticut Yankee* is fun at the time, but very little of this show will endure in your memory, and you won't find yourself debating in the lobby afterwards or whistling a catchy tune in the shower the next morning. To those who are looking for an intellectual theme, look elsewhere, but to those who desire a jolly romp through a recycled, but well-performed story, *A Connecticut Yankee* is a show for you.

Hedda Gabler a visual, voyeuristic treat

theatrereview

Hedda Gabler

Featured in The Canoe Theatre Festival

Adapted by Melissa Thinglestad and Kathleen Weiss

Directed by Kathleen Weiss

Starring Nadien Chu, Harry Judge, Ian Leung, David Ley and Melissa Thinglestad

Sold out

Visit www.workshopwest.org for other Canoe Theatre Festival shows

BRYAN SAUNDERS

Arts & Entertainment Staff

If there's one thing that this year's Canoe Theatre Festival doesn't do, it's play it safe. Case in point: Melissa Thinglestad and Kathleen Weiss' adaptation of *Hedda Gabler*.

This Victorian-era piece, written by Henrik Ibsen in 1890, has certainly been around for a while, but director Weiss finds a brilliant way to make it new again, taking away the safety nets of both the actors and the audience in the process.

Each night, just 15 people are admitted into a very unusual sort of theatre: the historic Rutherford House on the snowy banks of the North Saskatchewan River. In a circle of chairs along the walls of the Rutherford House's sitting

room — just centimetres from the action — audience members feel almost like voyeurs, eavesdropping on the schemes of the manipulative, Machiavellian, anti-heroine Hedda Gabler (Melissa Thinglestad).

Occasionally, the audience has to stand up and follow the play's characters to another room in the house, and while this had the potential to feel more like a game of musical chairs and less like a work of drama, this only adds to the show's strong sense of intimacy.

Hedda, not unlike Shakespeare's Iago, is simply a character desperate for control in a society that denies it from her.

At the same time, this unusual setup highlights the suppression that audiences subject themselves to every time they walk into a "normal" theatre. Usually they sit in the dark, quiet and with hands-in-lap so as not to be a distraction. Audience members in the Rutherford House don't have this option: they're just as brightly illuminated as the actors, just as visible to the rest of the audience, and often find themselves literally peering over the shoulders of the characters in this play.

Try as they may to stay out of it, the audience isn't just watching the show — they're *in* the show.

This only heightens the already powerful sense of drama, and reinforces the script's deep roots in the realism movement. It speaks of the creative and sexual repression with which Hedda struggles, and it helps the audience understand, and even sympathize with the origins of her emotional and physical violence.

Though some may choose to view her as nothing more than a narcissist, Hedda, not unlike Shakespeare's Iago, is simply a character desperate for control in a society that denies it from her. Throughout the play, she takes this control in any way and form she can get it: whether that be by playfully manipulating her husband, mentally and physically subjugating a naïve runaway, or using her sexuality to get a powerful judge to bend to her will.

The playwright's message in all this seems to be that repression only breeds sublimation. Nothing should be bottled up forever, lest everything is destroyed in the end.

In a way, director Weiss echoes this thought by choosing to present the show in a manner outside the normal conventions of theatre. Like Hedda, Weiss pushes the boundaries. She challenges perceptions of what a safe, acceptable role is for the audience. In their turn, the audience, once liberated, cheers on this triumph, for it is theirs as well.



One man's trash is another man's fodder for a quirky play

theatre review

The Dazzle

Written by Richard Greenberg

Directed by Wayne Paquette

Starring Molly Flood, John Sproule, and Frank Zotter

Runs until February 7 at 7:30 p.m. Tues-Sat

2 p.m. matinee Saturdays and Sundays

The Varscona Theatre (10329-83 Ave.)

\$10-25 at tixonthesquare.ca

CAITLIN GORUK

Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you were to find an old potato peeler lying around on the ground, you'd think nothing of it. But to people like Homer and Langley Collyer, this little oddity is a gem worth collecting — along with 14 pianos, numerous clocks, bowling balls, and newspapers, just to name a few.

The Collyer brothers shared a Harlem brownstone in which they managed to accumulate over 130 tons of garbage in their lifetime. On March 22, 1947, the body of Homer was found; after sifting through piles of junk, on April 9, Langley's body was discovered decomposing under only a small fraction of the clutter that engulfed their house.

The Dazzle, written by Richard Greenberg, is loosely based upon this event which took place in New York City over 50 years ago. The director Wayne Paquette best describes the relationship of the play to the actual incident. He states, "[This] play is based on a true story, but all the events are made up." His words ring true, because due to the reclusive nature of these brothers, the bulk of their lives is a mystery. Richard Greenberg presents to us his own exploration of this mystery in his delightfully bittersweet adaptation where the normal becomes crazy, and vice-versa.

At first, the nature of the writing seems odd and confusing, making it difficult to be drawn into the world of the play. It's very sporadic, but after a while this unusual style becomes authentic to Langley's (Frank Zotter) character and reveals itself to be quite charming as it explores the intricacies of language and reason.

Zotter's performance is pure brilliance. Langley possesses many layers, and the commitment held to every little mannerism is entertaining. He is charmingly off-kilter with his matter-of-fact nature in which he declares completely ludicrous ideas. As Milly (Molly Flood) states, "I've never met someone who wanders into parentheses quite like you do."

Homer (John Sproule) is equally lovely to watch. He appears to be the logical brother, but this apparent notion begins to unravel towards the end of the play. We witness Sproule's strong performance as his character struggles and makes sacrifices due to his responsibility to Langley.

The chemistry between Zotter and Sproule is magical and their energy is contagious. The last heart-wrenching scene between the two leaves the audience in tears, as we see the true innocence of Langley and the love the brothers share.

The headstrong Milly is excellently portrayed by Flood. She's a woman who takes nothing and goes down fighting. Even the saddening transformation she experiences during the play leaves her broken, but resilient.

On the technical side, the costumes by Brian Bast are simply lovely. Each dress that adorns Molly is elegant and beautifully fitting. The set (Daniela Masellis) mirrors the chaos which is slowly taking over their lives, and the drastic change from Act I to Act II is amazing.

The Dazzle is a play that tampers with normal social convention and the need to have something to hold onto, whether it be a person or things. We are left with a bizarre story that tells us of the strong bond of fraternal love and dependency.



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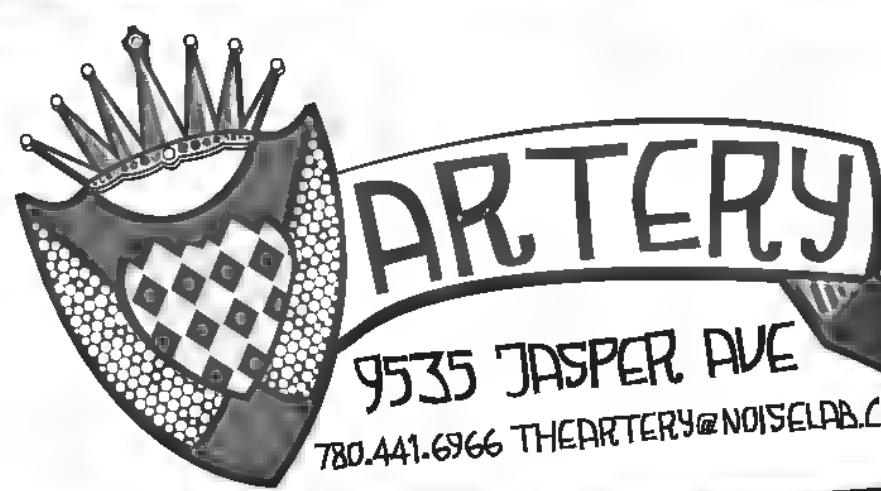


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JONN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

So you're out on the dance floor, drunkenly shouting along to nonsensical

pop-rock gibberish at the top of your lungs. The last thing you want to hear from anyone wondering just "what the fuck that doJche's problem is" are complaints about your lack of lyrical accuracy. Luckily, if you happen to be pumping your fists to the pre-verse of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance," the embarrassment of imprecision doesn't have to be an issue, thanks to this website.

A throwback to the days when the Big G on the Internet was Geocities instead of Google, this hypnotic interweb eyegore features an endless recording of Gaga's unnervingly catchy goo-gooing. Repeated in perpetuity, it begins to sound like discomforting motherese babbled by a disconcertingly robotic and feminine voice to what would be the most terrified or confused baby in the world. As the music continues, lines of caps-locked lyrics dance around frenetically in front of

a seizure-inducing background.

Like a sadistic version of Hooked on Phonics that teaches children how to sing along to Lady Gaga but leaves them functionally illiterate, this pop music learning aide may send people into epileptic convulsions — but at least they won't have any pesky out-of-place "rah" or "ma" sounds while they're shaking on the ground and frothing at the mouth to the beat of Gaga's killer hooks.

Created by Anthony Gelman — who appears to be a fawning Lady Gaga superfan based on his Twitter page — this web oddity must have taken upwards of five minutes to build and remains tolerable for all of 10 seconds. This should provide you with ample time to learn to sing (read: string 15 sounds together in rhythm) with all the coherence of an Italian who's just been injected into the jugular with diazepam.



albumreview

Animal Collective

Fall Be Kind
Domino

MATT HIRSH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Animal Collective was prolific in 2009. The release of their eighth and most accessible full-length album to date, *Fall Be Kind*, garnered a large amount of critical praise from the musical press and fans alike. While some musical outfits would be content to create just one great album a year, Animal Collective is not one of those groups.

Fall Be Kind is a five-song EP that

was released only 11 months following *Merriweather*. While rooted in the ideas of their previous work, *Fall* represents the invigorated creativity of a group eager to explore new themes and challenging musical concepts. The result is an avant-garde album that maintains a unique sense of style and listenability.

The second track of the EP "What Would I Want? Sky," which samples

the Grateful Dead's Song "Unbroken Chain," is the highlight of the album. This song represents a triumph in style for the members of Animal Collective, particularly Avey Tare, who has been a life-long admirer of Grateful Dead.

The final three songs are more rooted in dreamscapes. "On A Highway," a song first recorded in 2007 during a recording session for the BBC, is renovated with new instrumentation and enhanced production to create an evocative sense of nocturnal travel.

Animal Collective's 2009 albums are exceptional additions to their already outstanding discography. While it may be difficult for Animal Collective to match the creativity they expressed during 2009, *Fall Be Kind* has created optimism for the band's future endeavours.



Snoop Dogg
Malice N Wonderland
Priority Records

albumbattle

VS

Auresia
Auresia
MoonSplash Records



LARYSSA SZMIELSKY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!

Most Creative Album Opening

Snoop Dogg: The intro by Snoop Dogg's son is too inappropriate to quote here, and is practically begging for a much larger Parental Advisory sticker on the album cover.

Auresia: Her first song kicks the album off into the laidback, relaxing mood that glides into the songs that follow.

Winner: Snoop Dogg. Upon popping the CD in, I thought I knew what I was getting into, knowing how vulgar most rap songs tend to be. A bravo goes out to the Dogg for pulling a shocker, regardless.

Best Album Title

Snoop Dogg: *Malice N Wonderland*. So far so good.

Auresia: Self-titled. Tsk tsk.

Winner: Snoop Dogg, but only by default. Using your name as your album

title is never a creative option.

It's a Tougher Life for Who?

Snoop Dogg: "Pimpin' Ain't EZ" (featuring R. Kelly) speaks of the hard times that pimps around the world can relate to: having money and cars, popping bottles with other superstars, and dropping mad bucks up in the club. Luckily for them, Snoop Dogg reassures that all pimps go through these hard times and encourages them to "keep pimpin'."

Auresia: She channels the Jah goddess to help her "make it right, to help [her] sleep through the night" in her final song "Jah Make It Right" for reasons that are unclear.

Winner: Auresia. Although the side effects of being a pimp sound rough, I have to side with Auresia for no other reason than her troubled life being more relatable to those of us who have troubles dropping \$40 at the bar, let alone \$100,000. Don't attempt to contact the Jah goddess, though — because I don't know who that is.

Worst Lyrics:

Snoop Dogg: The album doesn't have anything out of the ordinary that you

wouldn't already expect from a typical rap CD. Being all about sex, drugs, and alcohol, the 60-minute disc describes many a dirty situation.

Auresia: "Don't put your finger in a hot spot / Go put your finger in a hot spot / Don't put your finger in a hot spot / Put your little finger in a hot spot" from track "Hot Spot" is confusing on many levels. Perhaps I'm being too analytical about it, but what does she possibly mean by "hot spot?" Perhaps I need to think a little dirtier? Also, as these few, indecisive lines are the chorus of the song, it would only make sense to further explain what they mean, but instead she leaves the listener's mind running wild.

Winner: The track "Hot Spot" isn't the only one that's left me confused. As a matter of fact, I can't say I know what she's singing about for most of her entire album.

Champion

Snoop Dogg takes home the gold. *Malice N Wonderland* is sure to be a respectable option as pre-night-on-the-town tunes. Our reggae opponent couldn't stand a chance with her confusing, tiresome lyrics, and monotonous melodies.

BLOG

THE VULGARIANS ARE AT THE GATE

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EVAN
MUDRYK

Until we perfect cyborg technology, people will continue to do two things: age and eventually die. Because of this, we’re designed to be replaceable out of necessity — our ability to make babies is proof enough of this. However, in a world where younger and sexier is almost always better than older and experienced, the Drew Careys will always eventually replace the Bob Barkers, and when Gene Siskel is no longer alive, you can bet that Richard Roeper isn’t too far away.

But sometimes studios choose to ignore the wrinkles and the occasional respirator in order to maintain tradition. They favour stability (which is to say, steady paycheques) over unproven newcomers. Unfortunately, this principle was partially demonstrated, courtesy of longtime late-night sweetheart Conan O’Brien, who after only seven months of hosting the *Tonight Show*, was forced out in an idiotic, but ultimately unsurprising, move by NBC to retain comedy dinosaur Jay Leno on their late-night roster.

At the same time, while NBC was deciding that their policy would be “out with the new, in with the old,” Columbia Pictures and Marvel Studios also decided that a change was necessary for their *Spider-Man* franchise, except that it’d be in the other direction: dumping director Sam Raimi, star Tobey Maguire, and the potential fourth sequel, in favour of a new director and a teenage Spider-Man. Being myself a fan of the

now-classic trilogy, I was outraged to see what I perceived as another boneheaded decision made by a group of out-of-touch movie executives with no taste. That is, until I saw who would be replacing Mr. Raimi.

The appropriately named Marc Webb was announced this past week as the succeeding director for the *Spider-Man* franchise, his only previous theatrical credit being from this past summer’s surprise hit (*500*) *Days of Summer* — a movie that I consider to be among my favourites of 2009. I was, of course, thrilled with the decision, and am now eagerly anticipating the new series of films.

But now I’m left in a tight spot: when exactly is the “right time” to throw out that old rusted-up beater in favour of a spankin’-new luxury sedan? Many might say that Jay Leno, who hosted the *Tonight Show* for 16 years, had hosted the show for long enough, and that Conan was the rightful heir. True as that may be, Johnny Carson hosted the same show for 30 years, and maybe Leno thought he had another 14 in him as well — which he probably does.

Personally, I never had any problems with Leno’s *Tonight Show*. I didn’t watch it with great frequency, but he ran a fine show and one that I usually preferred to Letterman’s. And even though I am among the many that proudly say “I’m with CoCo,” I can still see merits in keeping Leno and letting O’Brien pursue other ventures.

As for Sam Raimi, he’ll continue to make great movies (*Drag Me to Hell*, most recently) and Marc Webb will have a lot to prove when he directs his second feature. Conan O’Brien will continue to be brilliant in whatever he eventually does, just as he was writing for *Saturday Night Live* and *The Simpsons*, and hosting *Late Night*. Finally, Jay Leno will continue to host the *Tonight Show* until the end of time, assuming that damn cyborg technology finally catches up with him.



albumreview

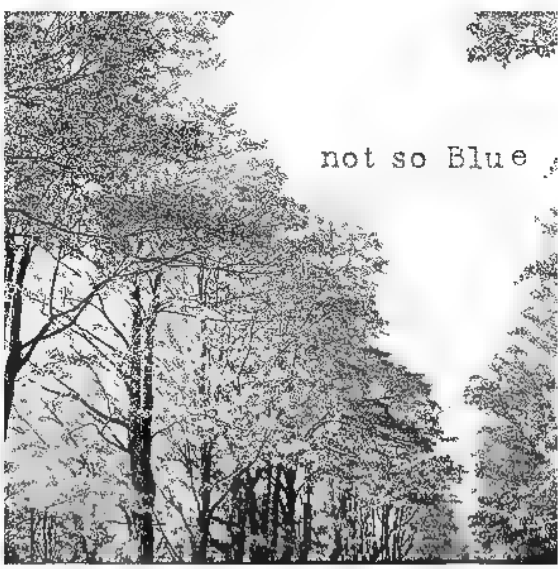
Courtney Farquhar
Nowhere I’d Rather Be
Canterbury Music Company

JANE VOLOBOEVA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Leave the best for last — Courtney Farquhar certainly did just that with her specific choice of cover art for her debut album. She displays all parts of her body, including feet and shoes, before the listener can finally find a head shot on the inner cover of the album. Unlike many other artists who try to sell themselves before their music, Farquhar’s modest choice is admirable.

On the contrary, track-wise she gives us the best first. “More Than Anything” is the most upbeat track on her 11-track album. The songs that follow are extremely mellow, calm, and soothing. The ratio of music to lyrics dominantly leans towards the musical side — classic country with contemporary undertones, both of which compliment her voice with its softness and springy notes. Her voice is angelic, yet low and husky at the same time. As attractive as that may seem, it unfortunately makes her songs sound quite similar.

People who like stability will find enjoyment in Farquhar’s performance on *Nowhere I’d Rather Be*, as it makes for the ideal background cocktail party music. Her songs add a delicate sense of atmosphere without dominating the environment in which it’s played. If you’re looking for soul-stirring action, look elsewhere, but if you’re in the mood to be soothed, Farquhar will deliver.



albumreview

Rich Burnett
Not So Blue
Ground Vinyl Records

WAYNE SIMON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I decided to conduct an experiment to discover what drink this album goes best with.

You see, from the very first crooned line of the record, it becomes painfully apparent that *Not So Blue* is a lounge album — and a so-so one at that. The subdued instrumentation and lullaby-like vocals combine to create whimsical laid-back melodies that aren’t awfully captivating. The production is top-notch, and the compositions well-polished, but there’s just no drive to prove that there’s more to this musical exploration beyond simply wanting to produce 39 minutes of not-bad, not-great tunes. And, really, that’s fine. This is the type of album that wouldn’t be out of place playing faintly in the background of a hotel reception or a lakeside resort.

Verdict? One star for effort and another two for the pretty lyric on the album’s back cover: “Lie beside the water heater and listen to the wind, whistle through the window crack as winter closes in.” It probably should be said that the lyrics on the album aren’t half bad. They jump back and forth over the border of mediocrity, which is pretty much what the entire album does. The best song by a mile is the opening track, “Glad I’m Gone.” And the results of the alcohol test? Coconut rum sucks with every CD, this one being no exception.

Week 3: The Freshman 15



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weekly updates at:
<http://thegatewayonline.ca/blogs/freshman15>

THE GATEWAY

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Research Study Comparing the General Well Being and Societal Functioning of Healthy Persons to Patients with Chronic Illness

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Who can enter the study?

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What are the participants asked to do?

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Are participants compensated?

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Who can I contact for more information?

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VARSTARSTARS

Varsity Stars is a weekly look at the very best performances by U of A athletes over the past weekend. Selections are based on the recommendations of our dedicated Gateway Sports Staff.



JOSH AU

Picked up four medals this weekend at the CW Swimming Championships.



DANA VINGE

Surrendered only a single goal over the weekend against Saskatchewan.



SPENCER LEISKE

Led the Bears in kills both nights against Manitoba with 21 and 15 respectively.

Photographs supplied by Andy Devlin/LA Media

OUT OF TOWN SCORES

BASKETBALL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22
Alberta @ Fraser Valley

	78		60
	53		76

BASKETBALL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
Alberta @ Thompson Rivers

	74		54
	79		69

HOCKEY
FRI., JAN. 22 / SAT., JAN 23
Alberta @ Saskatchewan

	5		4 OT
	4		3 OT

Volley-Bears sweep pesky Bisons at home

Bears take both contests from Manitoba to claim sole possession of top spot in CW standings

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

After a pair of gritty victories this past weekend over the ninth-ranked Manitoba Bisons, the Golden Bears volleyball squad now sits atop the Canada West standings with an 11-3 record.

Earning both wins was certainly not easy for the fourth-ranked Bears, as the Bisons entered the weekend determined and clinging to the conference's seventh and final playoff spot. Nevertheless, Manitoba couldn't pick up a win Friday night, despite the Bears failing to establish any rhythm and practically escaping with a five-set win.

Alberta looked sluggish for most of Friday's match, and were simply unable to take command and put down a pesky group of Bisons.

"I thought on Friday night in particular, Manitoba played very aggressively and they served quite well, which consequently put us in trouble. [On Saturday], I felt we served better than they did, especially when [Bears' captain] Mike DeRocco went on a long run in the first set," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk explained.

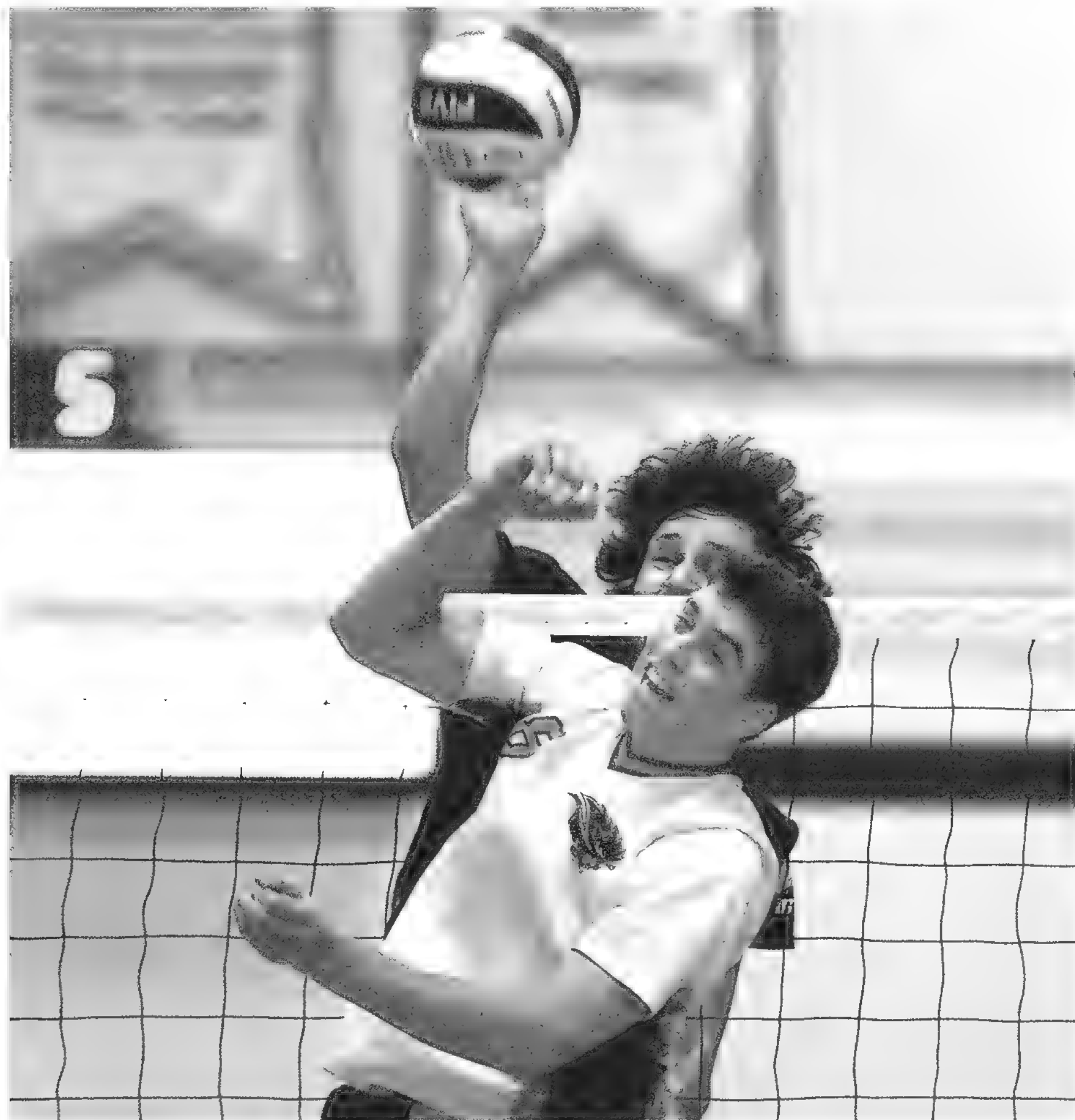
DeRocco, struggled at times Friday night with his service game, but displayed a vastly improved effort on Saturday, especially in the opening set when he delivered consecutive laser serves in a 12-0 Bears run.

"The new ball we have has changed the dynamics of our league to some degree and when Mike finds his serve and gets it going, it's tough for the opposition to handle," Danyluk asserted.

Serving, however, was not the only key to Saturday night's first set pasting of the Bisons, as the front wall recorded six blocks. Led by Spencer Leiske and Simon Lidster, the Bears continued to display their defensive might in the final three sets of Saturday's four-set victory, as they racked up a season high 21.5 blocks.

"Spencer has played exceptionally well for us this season, but he still has some things to learn. He played middle for our national championship team last year, so his transformation to the right side is still a work in progress," Danyluk said.

Solid attack efficiency was another deciding factor



PETE YEE

BISONS BLAST With a series sweep of the Herd over the weekend, the number-four ranked Golden Bears catapulted themselves into top spot in the Canada West ahead of provincial rival Calgary.

in the Bears' wins, as they recorded a total of 99 kills during the two games against Manitoba. Leiske and fifth-year senior Thomas Jarmoc tallied nearly two-thirds of Alberta's kills versus the Bisons.

The Bears did get in trouble, however, early in sets when they were unable to execute efficiently and allowed the Herd to set the tempo and claim early leads in sets.

"We started slow, especially [on Friday], and

they came out like gangbusters. [On Saturday], we came out more determined and were able to largely dictate the tempo of the match from the outset," Danyluk noted.

Next week against the Brandon Bobcats, the Bears will need to get out of the gates a lot quicker if they're going to withstand an even more versatile offensive attack and maintain their position atop the Canada West standings.

Pandas split top-10 showdown with Manitoba

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

In a pair of weekend matchups between top-five CIS teams, the fourth-ranked volleyball Pandas earned a split with the second-ranked Manitoba Bisons, and were unable to leapfrog the Bisons for second spot in Canada West.

During Friday night's match, the Pandas steadily improved in all facets of their game, but it wasn't until early in the third set when they made a significant move.

Down 10-5 with Manitoba grabbing hold of the momentum, head coach Laurie Eisler called a timeout. The Pandas responded by going on a 16-6 run in which they exhibited stellar blocking, greatly improving their attack efficiency by almost 23 per cent, and thus captured the critical third set.

"We just realized it was time to get out there and turn up the heat, because Manitoba was starting to feel good and establish fluidity in their game," Eisler said. "That run showed the ability that we were not going to go away."

In the fourth set, Alberta continued to wear down the Bisons with their attacking and strong service game. The Pandas had a decided 8-1 edge in service aces over the visitors, securing a big 3-1 win over Manitoba.

Left-side extraordinaire Tiffany Proudfoot led all players with 14 kills while Mississauga native Jaki Ellis chipped in with 33 assists.

On the other hand, Saturday's performance by the Herd proved why they're deserving of

their high national ranking, as they dominated the Pandas in all facets of the game en route to a straight-sets win.

Manitoba had a significant edge in attack efficiency over the Pandas in each of the three sets and finished the three-set sweep with an outstanding 45.6 per cent. They tallied 43 kills compared with only seven errors.

The Pandas, conversely, committed 10 errors in the third set alone.

Not being able to subdue the superb attacking of Kate Wasyliw and former Ohio State Buckeye Kristi Hunter was one thing for the Pandas, but they were simply unable to mount any form of offensive charge in the Saturday night affair.

"We never managed to make them uncomfortable and we couldn't bring enough pressure with our attack or serve to score enough points. They were in a set system throughout [Saturday's] match and we were unable to handle it," Eisler explained.

Despite the overall poor play of the Pandas on Saturday, second-year Native Studies major Camille Wallace had a stellar game. The Burnaby product had a team high 53.8 per cent attack efficiency, in which she recorded eight kills countered against only one error, one assist, and one solo block.

Ultimately, however, the Pandas couldn't find their comfort zone in the rematch against Manitoba and watched helplessly as the Bisons served, attacked, and blocked Alberta into submission.

"The margin of error in Canada West is small



CYRIL BALITBIT

PANDAS BLOCKADE The Pandas Jennifer Restall (right) goes up for the block on Manitoba's Ashley Voth Friday night at the Main Gym.

and we saw that [Saturday] as Manitoba took it to us right from the start," Eisler noted.

The Pandas will try to return to their winning ways next weekend when they head east to take on the Brandon Bobcats in another pivotal two-game set with major playoff ramifications.

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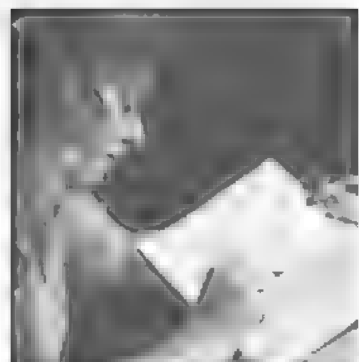
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EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Laraque's departure from Montreal marks conclusion of traditional NHL tough guys

Once revered, the NHL's unwritten "code" has since gone the way of the dodo



BREN
CARGILL

Sports
Commentary

For hundreds of years, the samurai warriors of Japan have lived by a code called "Bushido," which preaches loyalty and honour. The NHL equivalent of this would be the fighters of the league and the unwritten "code" that they're all supposed to abide by.

Georges Laraque might have been the last remaining samurai in the NHL. The code is an unwritten set of etiquette that stipulates things such as showing respect for your opponent, only fighting those who match up in size and toughness, and playing an overall honourable style of hockey. Georges lived by this code of honour as both a player and a person.

Laraque was rare among NHL tough guys, only fighting when he found a willing combatant, never taking on anyone who wasn't considered in his weight class, and never would Big Georges intentionally cheap-shot an opponent.

Laraque is even more of a gentleman off the ice. Maybe the biggest reason why he was so beloved during his days in Edmonton was his dedication to the city and many charitable causes during his years here, along with his stops in Phoenix, Pittsburgh, and until last week, Montreal. No player was

more willing to be a representative of the team in the community and to give a hand to local causes than the loveable tough guy.

However, there are two main factors that have basically ended Laraque's career as an everyday NHL player.

Georges' unwillingness to adapt and abandon his beloved code left him stranded on tough guy island, making him the only player in the league who ascribed to the "code".

The first is that, after the lockout, he simply couldn't keep up with the pace of play and his minimal offensive prowess was deteriorating with age. To make this situation worse, he hasn't been handling his dissent into the realm of not being an everyday NHL player very well, infrequently complaining to the local media over the last few years when he was a healthy scratch.

Both Canadiens GM Bob Gainey and Laraque's coach in Pittsburgh at the time, Michel Terrien, talked to the media this week and said that he was extremely difficult to handle for coaches because of his poor attitude with regards to his playing time. He's become the Allen Iverson of the NHL

in that regard.

The other reason Georges no longer calls the NHL home is because of the fact that he follows the code. In today's game, it seems that honour and respect aren't held in as high of value as the "do anything it takes to win" attitude that has enveloped the sport and has led to a lack of respect toward opponents. Georges' unwillingness to adapt and abandon his beloved code left him stranded on tough guy island, making him the only player in the league who ascribed to the code.

Recent examples such as Patrice Cormier's blindside elbow to the head of Quebec Remparts defenseman Mikael Tam, and Philadelphia Flyers middleweight pest Daniel Carcillo grabbing New York Rangers superstar Marian Gaborik out of a scrum and pummeling him are just a few examples that illustrate the fact that honour is no longer something practiced in competitive hockey at either the junior or pro levels.

Because of this, Laraque no longer fits into the enforcer/intimidator role, as this is a job that now requires a player to play on the edge and sometimes go after the other teams' best players, or hit to hurt, and Big Georges refuses to do these things.

Now the only job that may be waiting for Laraque is in Edmonton, as a good-will ambassador for the Oilers.

While he may not be able to play a regular shift anymore, the last samurai of the NHL deserved a more respectful exit from the game than he got last week.

sportsshots

Compiled by Matt Pretty

Bears Hockey

The number-two ranked hockey Bears (18-1-1) worked overtime magic this weekend as they won a pair of contests in the extra period over the Saskatchewan Huskies (10-7-3) in Saskatoon.

Friday's 5-4 game was decided by a goal off the stick of Kyle Fecho 33 seconds into overtime, after Alberta had come back from a 4-2 third-period deficit.

On Saturday, Derek Ryan scored after 41 seconds of OT to give the Bears a 4-3 win after Saskatchewan had fought back from two goals down in the third.

Alberta has now clinched a playoff spot and will look to cement the top spot in Canada West next weekend when they travel to Manitoba, where a pair of wins will lock up the first seed and home ice throughout the conference playoffs.

Pandas Basketball

The number-eight ranked basketball Pandas (11-5) also brought home two wins this weekend. On Friday night, they beat the Fraser Valley Cascades (1-12) 78-60 in Abbotsford. Kendra Asleson led the way with 20 points off of 8-of-11 shooting, while four other Pandas were in double-figures. Alberta manhandled UFV on the boards by a count of 47-28 in the contest.

Saturday night's game in Kamloops was a similar story as the Pandas pulled down 52 rebounds on the way to a 74-54 win over the Thompson Rivers WolfPack (3-11). Kaitlyn



PETE YEE

Arbutnot led Alberta with 18 points, while Marisa Haylett chipped in with 11 before leaving with a suspected knee injury.

The Pandas are second in Canada West's Prairie Division with four games left and need two more wins to clinch a playoff spot.

Bears Basketball

Bears basketball (7-9) split their own B.C. series this weekend. Friday's game was a rough loss to Fraser Valley (8-6) as Alberta shot only 33 per cent for the game and wound up on the wrong end of a 76-53 score. Jordan Baker led the Bears

with 14 points and 11 rebounds, while Harvey Bradford notched 13 points.

However, the Bears bounced back on Saturday and beat Thompson Rivers (2-12) 79-69. Rob Dewar was the top Alberta scorer with 16, while Scott Leigh (15), Bradford (12), and Ken Otieno (10) also hit double-digits. Baker added 14 more boards to his team-leading total of 160.

With four games left, the Bears sit just half a game outside the playoffs and ought to make a serious push for the final spot, as they face Brandon (4-11) and Manitoba (6-10) in the final two weeks.



SAMBROOKS

Ice Pandas return to winning ways with home sweep of Saskatchewan

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

After dropping their first contest of the season two weekends ago, the Pandas hockey squad got back on the winning path this weekend with a pair of home-ice victories over the Saskatchewan Huskies in a 2-0 win Friday night, followed up by a 4-1 victory Saturday.

Entering the weekend with a stellar 17-1-0 record, the first-place Pandas were looking to cool down the recently hot Huskies, who came into the weekend riding a four-game winning streak including a sweep of the Manitoba Bisons. Despite Alberta's lone setback on the season coming just a week earlier, the Pandas came into the weekend series intent on using the loss to refocus for a very dangerous Saskatchewan team.

"It was difficult — I think it was starting to take the wind out of our sails a little bit, and probably we got a little bit frustrated in the second period and they seemed to be taking away the momentum as a result of their physical play, grittiness, and determination," Draper said.

"I think we made a decision between the second and third periods that we weren't going to allow that to happen, and that we were going to take charge again — I think our girls did that."

A major key for the Pandas heading into the weekend was to shut down the Huskies sniping duo of Breanne George and Julie Paetsch — third and fifth respectively in Canada West scoring. Alberta was able to neutralize Saskatchewan's scoring tandem, as both were shutdown by the Pandas defenders, who held both Huskies off the scoresheet.

"I don't think any of us were happy with the way the last weekend finished off, and I think that we really wanted to prove ourselves that we could get going in a positive direction ..."

HOWIE DRAPER
HEAD COACH PANDAS HOCKEY

"I don't think any of us were happy with the way the last weekend finished off, and I think that we really wanted to prove to ourselves that we could get going in a positive direction — I think that's what happened," Draper explained after Saturday night's game.

In what was a hard-fought pair of games, the Pandas were able to keep their emotions in check against a Huskies squad that is among the conference's most aggressive and gritty. Especially in Saturday night's contest where the two sides were squared 1-1 after 40 minutes, the Pandas were frustrated at times by Saskatchewan's stifling style of play, before regrouping in the third to score a trio of goals and secure the sweep.

With the regular season heading into the final stretch, the Pandas now find themselves in a terrific position to wrap up first place and home-ice advantage through out the Canada West playoffs, as Alberta could clinch the regular season conference crown as early as next weekend in Lethbridge.

"This is a big step against a very good team, so to be able to pull away two wins against Saskatchewan I think is a very positive step in the right direction. We need two more wins, so hopefully we can get that in Lethbridge and then go into Manitoba feeling pretty good."

The Pandas have a bye this weekend before they head to the Chinook City to take on the Pronghorns where they'll be looking to wrap up first place.



PETEYEE

U of A swim teams bring home bronze at CW Championships

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

With the snow falling outside, records fell inside this weekend at the Max Bell Aquatics Centre in Lethbridge at the Canada West Swimming Championships.

Sunday saw a trio of records broken, as Calgary's Erica Morningstar set a record in both the 100m freestyle along with a new mark in the 100m backstroke, while UBC Thunderbird and 2010 Canada West Swimmer of the Meet Martha McCabe broke her own record in the 200m breaststroke to cap off the championships.

U of A swimmers had a succesful trip south over the weekend, as both the men's and women's sides picked up third-place finishes for the third consecutive year, behind perennial powers UBC and Calgary.

Over the course of the event, the Bears and Pandas brought home a combined 10 medals in the Chinook City, highlighted by a gold medal performance from the Bears 800m freestyle

relay team of Brian Yakiwchuk, Joshua Au, Scott Stewart, and Robert MacKinnon.

Thanks to their golden finish, all four members of that 800m freestyle team were honoured as conference all-stars.

Despite not garnering any conference all-stars, the Pandas had a solid weekend with 2009 Universiade swimmer Kayla Voytechek posting Alberta's best finish on the women's side, as she picked up a silver medal in the 50m breaststroke, finishing just behind UBC's McCabe.

The Pandas, like their male counterparts, also had success in the 800m freestyle relay, as Dana Armstrong, Tsue Andersen, rookie Bobbie Mielnichuk, and fifth-year captain Lauren Gillespie, combined for a silver-medal swim, finishing behind Calgary.

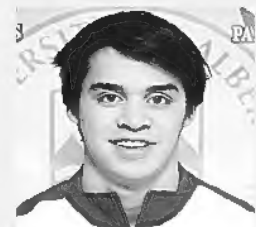
Next on the schedule for the U of A swimmers will be the CIS Championships February 18-20 in Toronto, where the Green and Gold will be looking to improve on the Pandas' sixth-place finish and the Bears' seventh-place standing from a year ago.

FAB FOUR

All four members of the Bears 800m freestyle team were named CW all-stars thanks to their gold-medal swim of 7:33.76 over the weekend. (Photo credit: Andy Devlin/LA Media)



BRIAN YAKIWCHUK



JOSHUA AU



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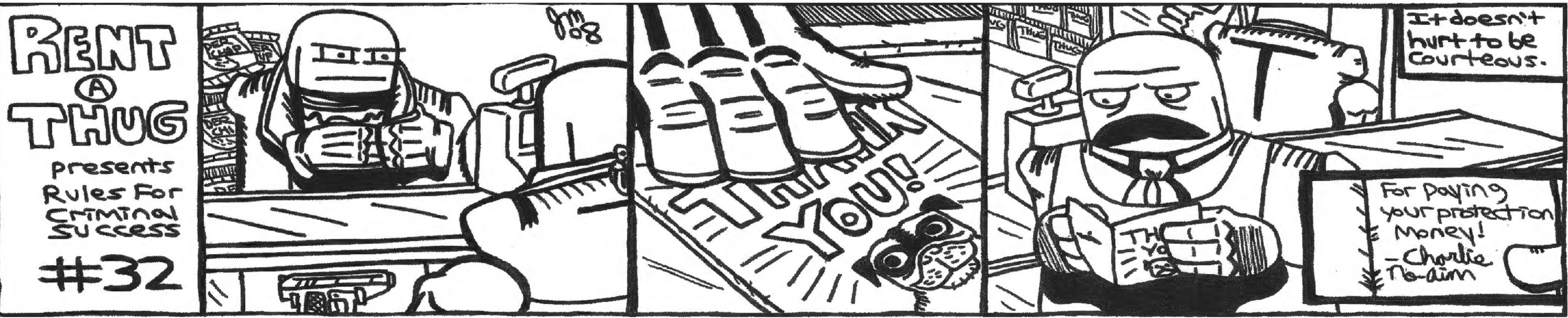
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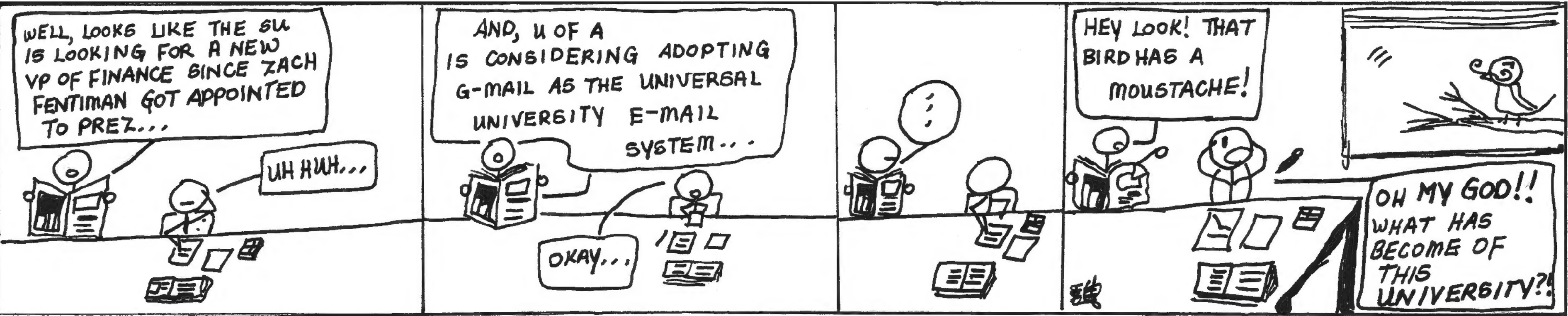
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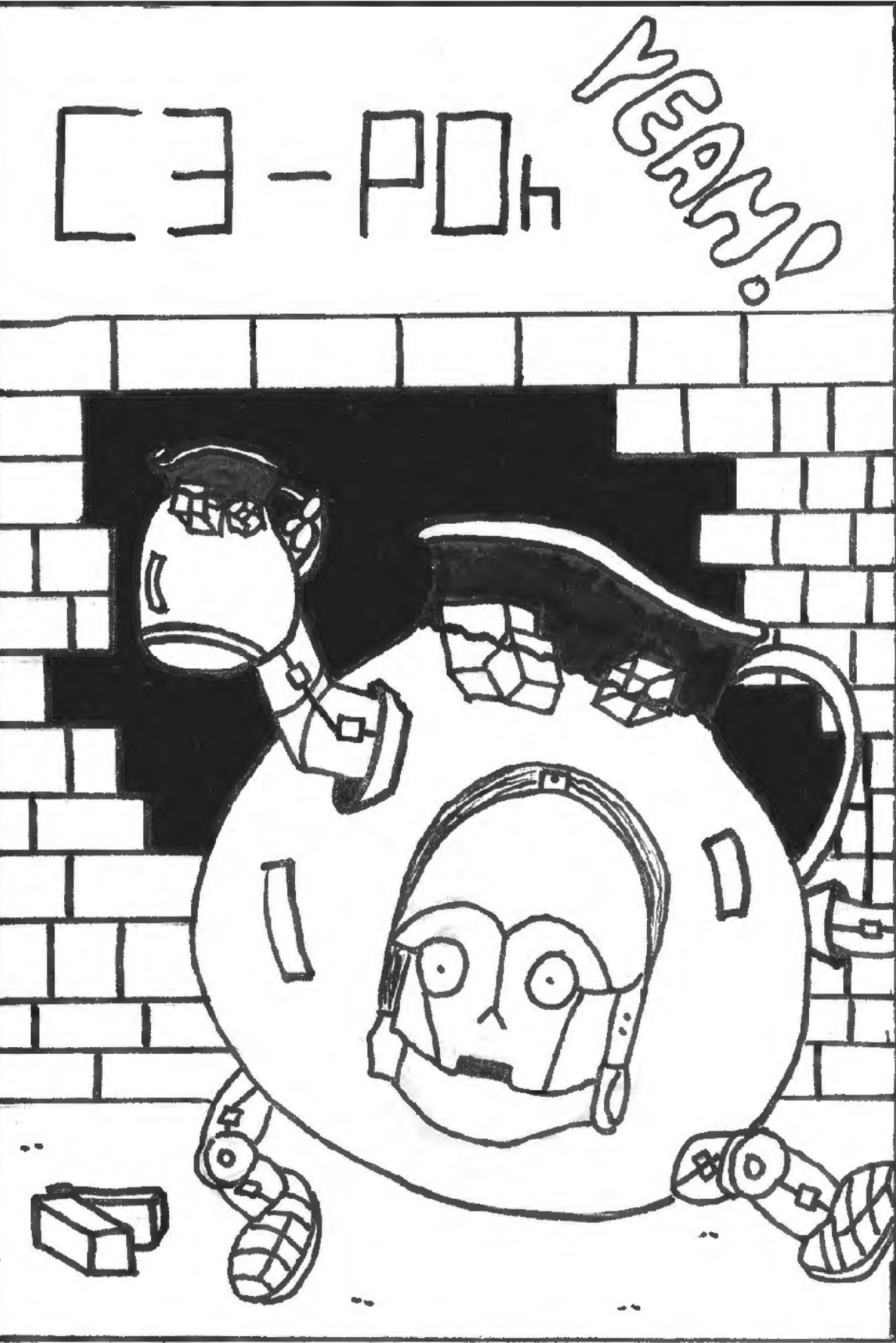
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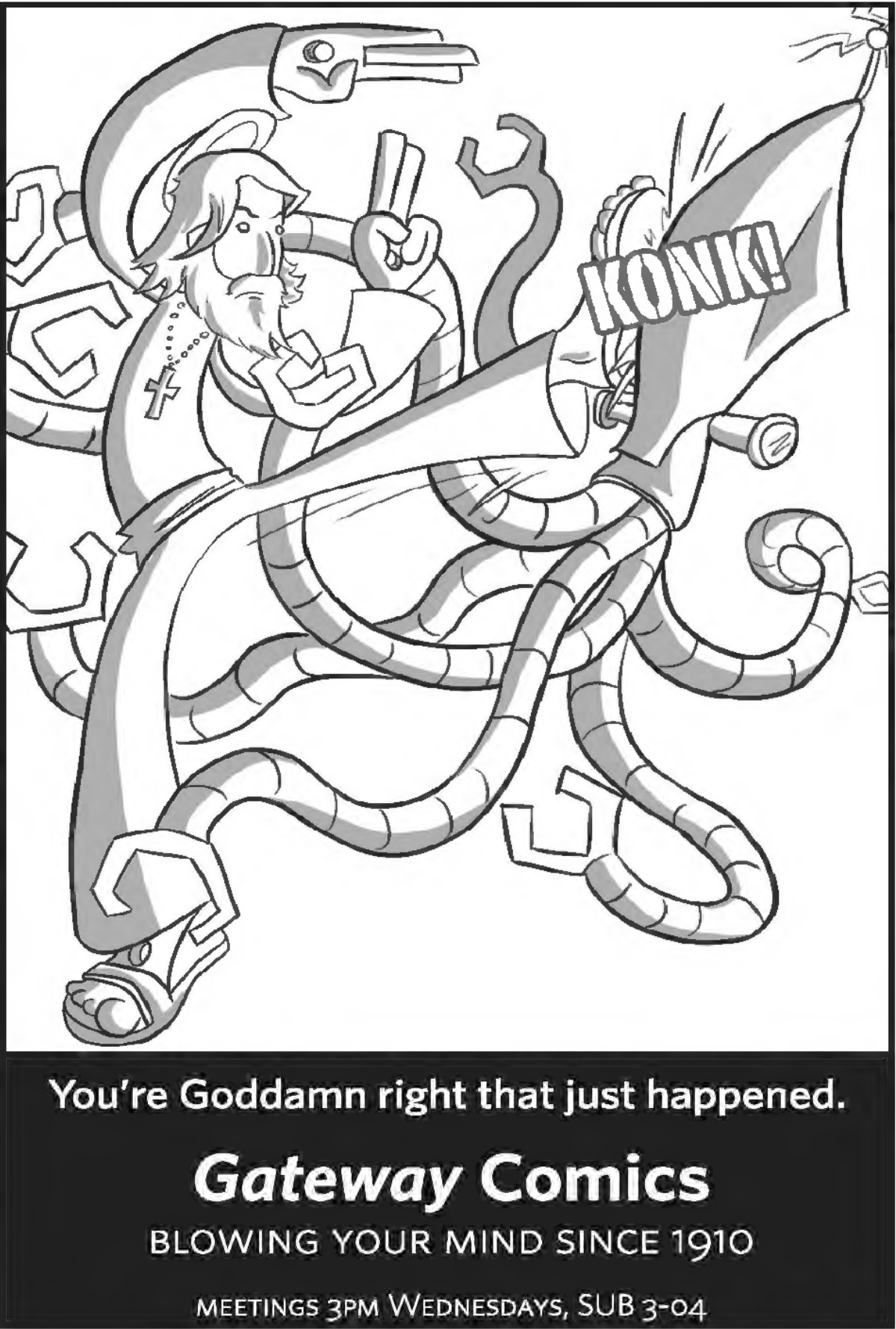
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AND FINALLY

While Students’ Council probably already has its candidates picked out to fill the SU Vice President (Operations and Finance) position, I figure that it can’t hurt to submit my name as a last-minute nominee. I mean, why not, right? There’s only three months to go before the turnover, so there shouldn’t be anything too difficult to take care of. I figure I go in, tie up the loose ends, draw up a few charts in Excel, and maybe rename an SU business or two just for kicks. (I think a lot more people would enjoy getting their smoothies at SUBjuice, and watching shows at the Myer SUBowitz Theatre.) The benefits are numerous to holding the OpsFi post: sweet office, numerous staff to do my bidding, and the opportunity to become president in case Fentiman suddenly has “personal reasons” of his own. I might even selfishly use my office for some of my own pet peeves: namely, getting some new elevators for SUB. You know, this is starting to sound so good. I might actually run for a full term.

crossword

The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.thegatewayonline.ca

Across

- 2. Pursue
- 6. 100 dinars
- 10. With the bow, in music
- 14. Judges’ garments
- 15. Old Dodge model
- 16. Sharp bristle
- 17. Golf clubs
- 18. Group
- 19. Busy as _____
- 20. Decoration at the top of a chair leg
- 21. Universality
- 24. Body of retainers
- 26. Dodges
- 27. Agent’s take
- 28. Business accounts
- 30. Lake in the Sierra Nevada
- 33. Lump of chewed food
- 34. Yes, in Yokohama
- 37. Ancient Athens’ Temple of _____
- 38. Tears
- 39. Metrical foot
- 40. Casino area
- 41. Haunted house sounds
- 42. Navajo dwelling
- 43. Spacious
- 44. Attach by stitches
- 45. Declare
- 48. Leading
- 52. Supple arms and legs
- 55. Actress Balin
- 56. Della’s creator
- 57. “East of Eden” director Kazan
- 58. Destined
- 60. Env. notation
- 61. Bank deposit?

- 62. Free laces, say
- 63. _____ accompli
- 64. “No Ordinary Love” singer
- 65. Big cats

Down

- 1. Old newsman
- 2. Goddesses of the seasons
- 3. Cancel
- 4. DC bigwig
- 5. Spirit
- 6. Scoundrel
- 7. Muslim elder and prayer-leader
- 8. Actress Heche
- 9. Woody
- 10. Calculating device
- 11. Violently intense
- 12. Minotaur’s home
- 13. Follows orders
- 22. Director’s cry
- 23. Sorts
- 25. Wall St. debuts
- 28. Attractive
- 29. Auto pioneer
- 30. Faucet
- 31. Jackie’s second
- 32. Riled (up)
- 33. Ray of light
- 34. Crone
- 35. Doc bloc
- 36. Son of, in Arabic names
- 38. Like vagabonds
- 39. Caucus state
- 41. Additional
- 42. Attentive
- 43. Take as an affront

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
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45	46	47						48				49	50	51
52						53	54				55			
56					57					58	59			
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

- 44. “_____ loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah.”
- 45. Shake like _____
- 46. A bit, colloquially

- 47. Conductor Georg
- 48. Become less intense, die off
- 49. As before
- 50. _____ a million

- 51. Loses colour
- 53. Bones found in the hip
- 54. Temperate
- 59. Black bird



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